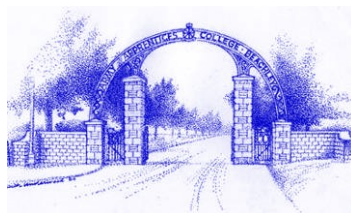




The Beachley Old Boys' Association Newsletter



Beachley



Echoes

Edition No. 27 ~ March 2021

Could you please let the Membership Secretary know
your current email address.

memsecboba@gmail.com

The New BOBA Web Page will be operative from 31st March 2021

<http://armyapprenticecollegechepstow.co.uk/>

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The President's Jottings for 2021 - 2022

I greet you well and hope that you are doing your bit against this terrible Virus by staying at home, boring but essential.

WHAT A TERRIBLE YEAR

It is not very often that I am lost for something to say but I am totally lost for words to describe the dreadful year we have all suffered. Lockdown has affected everyone and whilst we know that Beachley Boys are an extremely tough and hardy bunch they must lead by example. I am confident they will. Enough.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Despite the lock down the committee has, if anything, had more work to do than in a 'normal year' First was the cancellation of the Reunion, continued work on long term projects, and finally the cancellation of this year's Reunion. They worked their butts off to investigate many and varied alternatives before we finally decided that there were far too many uncertainties and very reluctantly formed the conclusion that we would be unable to hold a Reunion Weekend again this year. In this respect Chris Ricketts and his Reunion helpers took the brunt of the work – many thanks.

PLEASE READ HIS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS and give them YOUR FULL SUPPORT. They do an awful lot of work on YOUR behalf

The President !!!!!

As I have said old age in creeping up very fast but now is well established in that I am existing on no more than 3 hours sleep a night – it then requires that I try to get a few hours during the day at the expense of doing some productive work. My body clock is 12 hours out of phase!!!! I find it very difficult to concentrate or get enthusiastic about doing things and to cap it all my legs are now saying they don't like carrying me!!! I feel a bit like the old saying – "Days to do are getting very few".

The London Cenotaph Parade

Tony Waite is now your point of contact. He is far more up to date than me so read his remarks.

Bits and Pieces

Membership. We need new blood to keep going, it is very necessary for the 'younger groups' to come forward and join as members. Otherwise, it is very much your responsibility to encourage others to join – if we all could recruit just one new member, we would be fine for the next 10 years.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS. We still need volunteers – can you spare a little time to ensure the future of BOBA. There is always a need for a backup committee member. Ladies – nothing to stop you volunteering !!!!

THANK YOU.

WE ALL OWE THE COMMITTEE A GREAT DEAL FOR THE TIME AND EFFORT

THEY PUT IN ON OUR BEHALF – GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT.

I sincerely hope that you and your families are virus free and as well as possible,

God Bless – Stay Safe. Stay in and let us beat this bloody virus.

Syd Thomas



BOBA Annual Reunion 2021

As a result of the current and anticipated restrictions and Government advice due to Covid-19 it has been necessary for YOUR Committee to **CANCEL** the 2021 Annual Reunion.

The committee has spent a lot of time in discussion over the last few days and weeks and throughout this time have considered alternatives to this but have unanimously agreed that we have little choice.

We realise that this will doubtless create issues for some and many of us will be disappointed, but your safety and well-being are more important so we hope that you will understand and we can all look forward to 2022.

This has not been an easy decision to make as it is now the 2nd time it's happened since WW11 and was taken in the interests of all of our Members.

Furthermore, this decision has meant that we can no longer hold the AGM where you have your opportunity to ask questions etc., as well as to re-elect or elect those whose tenures are over. It is suggested that all such activity is held over until 2022 and the next (hopefully) Reunion although anything of particular concern can be mailed to me and will be forwarded to the Committee for discussion.

Take care and stay safe one and all.

Chris Ricketts (on behalf of the Executive Committee)



Chairman's Jottings

What can I say to you all other than Covid-19 has conspired to do something that other than the War years no one else has managed, not once but twice. I thought that 2020 would be a one-off and would be followed by a great catch up in 2021. Alas it was not to be but as I have previously said The Phoenix WILL rise and we will meet again.

2020 proved to be a very difficult time for everybody and has taken its toll throughout the world and destroyed so much of our society. BOBA has not escaped and we have lost Members to Covid-19 but I think the strength of resolve from Beachley Old Boys, and the teaching we had to make the best of a situation, and do as we are asked has helped us to survive.

What has happened during 2020? Your Committee has continued to maintain the Association, they have kept the finances in good order, they have tried to keep you informed of developments and to generally ensure that we are ready for our next Reunion.

We are immensely proud of the effort made to get The Beachley Gates refurbished and they are now back where they belong looking great and worthy of their new livery. We were extremely fortunate to have received a very generous donation from a Member (former RE Staff) that meant that BOBA was able to settle the account without drawing on the funds set aside at the AGM some 4 years ago for the refurbishment. I believe that that generosity is what sets our Association apart from others.

The Heritage Centre, despite being closed for most of the year goes from strength to strength, within the community and the Membership and continues to receive excellent support from 1 Rifles as well as local businesses, i.e., transport, equipment and labour if requested. I have received so many comments via social media etc from people saying how good the gates look and that they are pleased to see them back. Perhaps our 70 years here did have some kind of impact! On another note, we have our brand-new Website operational and I hope that you will all have a look at it and see the improvements from the old site. The BOBA Shop is now based at the Heritage Centre and everything will be available directly from there via E-Mail, including immediate payment. All this will help everyone to enjoy being a BOBA Member wherever in the world you may be. As we move into 2021 and the lessening of restrictions, we look forward to your visits to the Heritage Centre and the continuation of the Association and all it means.



75th Anniversary Reunion 17/18/19th September 1999



The Friday evening fireworks display captured by Alan Whitelock (46A).

The fireworks read
'BEACHLEY - 75 YEARS'



Remembrance Day November 2000 : Beachley Veterans out in force!



BOBA provided two separate contingents at **Royal British Legion Remembrance Day** parades on 12th November last year. Twenty five veterans represented the Association at the Cenotaph in Whitehall while a further eight Beachley boys were on parade in Chepstow.

Full reports from our President, Colonel Alan Holman and Historian, Ron Marie are at pages 5 and 16. The photograph shows Ron proudly displaying the BOBA standard on parade day in Chepstow.

Dedication of the HQ Branch BOBA Standard 1951



The original of the photograph above carries a note on the reverse stating "Church Parade on dedication of original BOBA Banner – circa 1950"



BOBA Reunion September 2002

The 'top table' – Rev Joe Rooney, Tony Waite, Alan Holman, Syd Thomas and Brian Henderson

“Who lived in this house?”



St, John's at Beachley & The Old School House



2005 IS THE YEAR OF THE NEW BOBA STANDARD



DISPLAYING THE OLD COLLEGE AND NEW BOBA STANDARDS



Hon Secretary's Report for 2020/2021

Various items of correspondence have been received since the AGM.

These items are of course forwarded to the BOBA committee.

Hopefully all members receive and read the Beachley Echoes which contains minutes of the AGM, committee member's reports and brief details of correspondence they have received directly rather than from myself, however, if you feel you may have missed something or would like clarification on an item, again please contact me direct and where possible I will try my best to help and forward the item.

My personal thanks go to the rest of the committee who have taken minutes when I have been unable to attend meetings due to working, and for their general support.

Chalky White 73A

Hon Secretary

garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk

Could you please let the Membership Secretary know
your current email address.

memsecboba@gmail.com

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**Life as a "Wife Of" - SHOPPING - Let Me Take You back A Few Years****CHAMPIGNONS**

Now newlyweds, we went to stay with friends in Hohne, West Germany, as it was known then.

At the breakfast table we were all discussing a brunch menu, a full English was the unanimous decision.

"Oh, we do not have any mushrooms" declared the Hostess.

"Not to worry" says I. I had noticed a SPAR shop, the German equivalent of a corner shop as we drove up the road the day before. "I'll walk to the shop to buy some".

The astonished look on their faces took me by surprise. "It's not that far to walk I'll be back in 20 mins".

Then they all started to grin including my new husband "Will someone enlighten me, what's the joke?"

In unison "You don't speak German" was the response.

"Then someone had better teach me how to ask for eight ounces of mushrooms!"

So, there I was jaunting down the road with a little chant repeating in my head! "Ich möchte zweihundertfünfzig gramm champignon bitte." (Ick murkter svy hoonert fumsig gram sham-ping-yon bitter)

I felt so chuffed with myself, clutching my precious bounty as I swaggered into the apartment twenty minutes later to be greeted by five speechless faces as I waved the brown paper bag in the air!

WOOL SHOP

They say memory loss is a Menopausal symptom, but as a new mother, now living in Hampshire, I experienced a moment of absentmindedness. I was an avid knitter and once a week with Helen tucked up in her 'Marmet' pram (similar to a Silver Cross), I would trot off to the local parade of shops. I also on occasion made a visit to the Launderette there. This day was one of those. With the sheets and towels secured in the washing machine, I proceeded to the Wool Shop to collect a few balls of wool from those that had been "laid by". This was a provision familiar to Knitters, for customers who could not afford to purchase all the wool they required in one go to ensure that the 'lot number' on each ball of wool needed was identical. I quite liked this process, popping in every week, enjoying a chat with other customers, admiring their efforts if they brought their finished garments to the shop. So, with Helen safely parked outside the shop sleeping soundly, I went inside. It was a hive of activity with lots of chatting going on; new patterns had arrived with the new chunky style yarns and I was enjoying browsing through the catalogues. Suddenly realising the time and that my laundry would be due for drying, I completed my purchase for three balls of 'Aran' and made my way to the Launderette. My bed linen was on its last spin and once installed in the dryer I proceeded to the Butcher, had my regular chat with him regarding 'offer-of-the-week' then off I strolled to the Bakers, to buy a bloomer loaf



and some crumpets. The Supermarket was next on the list and it was not until I was outside with two heavy bags of groceries that I realised something was missing! Oh my God! Where is the pram and the BABY!! Shocked that I could have been so thoughtless with my heart pounding in my chest I sprinted back to the wool shop where my pram stood outside, with Helen still dreaming away blissfully unaware of her mother's misdemeanour.... And thought to myself, better make sure I don't forget the sheets!

SESAME STREET

A few years later when posted to British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) came my second Einkauf (Supermarket) shopping struggle. Now a mother of two and still a full-time housewife, I decided one morning that it might be fun to bake my own sesame bread rolls. So off I strolled to a local self-service shop with baby in pram (our toddler was in the Kindergarten). I purchased all I needed except for the sesame seeds. Not a problem I thought, as further down the road was a larger supermarket. When inside I surveyed the appropriate shelves. I found caraway, coriander, and celery, but not a sesame seed in sight. Not to worry I thought I will walk into town to the supermarket with the instore bakery, they sell rolls sprinkled with sesame seeds so surely, they must sell the seeds.

I discovered no one queues in Germany, he-who-shouts-loudest gets served next. I waited respectfully offering 'mature Damen' to go ahead of me, until one kind lady gestured it was my turn. I took a deep breath as the assistant waited for my request. "Haben sie darr sesame kerne bitte?" (Harben zee dar, se-sar-mee kerner bitte?) (Please, do you sell sesame seeds?) Having acquired a net-ball I served again, once more the bakery assistant failed to comprehend. Aware that I now have an audience, I reverted to pointing to the seeds I could see on the rolls in front of the assistant. "Ahh" she exclaimed then rattled off in German "How many rolls would you like?"

"Nein danke" (Nine danker)(none thank you) I replied placing my hands on my forehead. The assistant looked baffled and empathetic, so feeling I was getting somewhere I persevered and tried to ignore the growing interest from even more customers waiting to be served. I pointed again to the rolls on the counter, together with my verbal request once more. The assistant gripped a roll with tongs and held it aloft for my inspection where I carefully pointed to the sesame seeds. Immediately the customer to my right grasped what I was trying to say, she declared in German to all around "It's the sesame seeds she wants to buy" as customers chuckled to one another the penny dropped. My pronunciation was the problem, so with the assistant looking my way I tried once more "Haben sie darr sesam kerne bitte?" (Harben zee dar, see-sam kerner) and everyone nodded encouragingly. To my surprise the assistant said in German "I'm sorry, no". She then continued, explaining that I would be able to buy the seeds at the Apoteke (chemist) and gave me directions, luckily I could decipher much of what she said. To looks of commiseration from everyone I thanked the assistant and bid my goodbye as I made my way out of the shop, to proceed geradeaus auf (gare-ra-dares-alf) up the road, um die Ecke (uum-de-ecker) around the corner to the chemist. On arrival, from a view up 3 steps, through a glass door I could see a counter and an elder gentleman dressed in a white coat stood behind it. My heart sank, and I knew I could not go through the whole saga again, plus time was running out, I would need to get



back home to feed and change the baby. Oh well I will just have to make the rolls without the sesame seeds, although - I could go back to the bakery counter I don't think so!!!

So, did I bake the rolls I hear you ask? Yes, the following day and they were not too bad for a first attempt, the 'sesam kerne' would have made all the difference!

ANN'S STORY

German markets have a wonderful array of produce akin to French markets but it's not easy to shop at these busy places. You need to build a vocabulary and have the confidence to speak with the German stall holders. Now my friend Anne, also posted with her husband and sons to BAOR, had recently completed a "Housewives German Course", provided by the Army Education Service. Ann not only decided for the first time to go to the twice weekly food market she also plucked up the courage to take a German bus to town all by herself! At the greengrocer market stall, Ann stated the list of vegetables she wanted to the stallholder in perfect German. She was so chuffed with herself that he had understood her every word as he proceeded to weigh out and put the produce into bags. Seeing her request was complete, Ann thanked him and waited to hear the cost of her purchases. The stall holder looked her straight in the eye and said "That will be 10 Marks love" Ann was so upset because she had wanted to speak with a German person and this man was a Londoner! Ann replied disappointedly "Could you not have pretended to be German, just for me"! He just grinned.

NAAFI

During a visit from my parents-in-law, we all went to the NAAFI to shop so that Mum and Dad could purchase their "duty frees" in preparation for their return home to UK.

To get entry to the NAAFI we all had to show ID to the official sat in a booth, which was just like an old-fashioned railway ticket office with a turnstile. The official was an older German man, he was a Centrally Employed Civilian(CET), these were German nationals who were vetted and employed by the MOD/UK Government, this was to show that the British Military Barracks was not a closed shop so to speak...

So, there we were in a queue, I showed my "Wife Of" ID card, my Mother-in-Law her passport followed by my Father-in-Law. The official who was about the same age observing the Polish surname, was intrigued, and struck up a conversation with Dad. Their chat became quite involved with war stories, how Dad had been conscripted as a sixteen-year-old boy into the German Army before managing to escape Poland and get to Scotland before returning to war torn Germany, but this time wearing a British Uniform. The Official recalled his time as a Luftwaffe Pilot. I thought how bizarre it was that someone who once would have been known as the enemy, was now checking British Servicemen and their Dependent's ID before giving them permission to enter a British establishment.

Although the NAAFI prices were in general more expensive than the Einkaufcentrums (Hypermarkets and supermarkets) certain items were certainly cheaper, especially alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. To deter anyone from indulging too much, each adult was issued with a Ration Book for



whisky, gin, cigarettes, tobacco, cigars, tea and coffee. This equated to one litre of gin and whisky, 200 cigs or 5 packets of tobacco or 50 cigars, and half a pound of tea and coffee per month.

To offset the higher costs for our UK goods and general living i.e., dry cleaning bills and shoe repairs, we were given a 'Local Overseas Allowance' (LOA) which adjusted with the £ to DM exchange rate from time to time. Savvy shoppers went on Recce's to German shops to identify regular groceries that were usually at a lower price, in larger packets, tins and jars giving us more for our money, making LOA stretch further.

But not to be outdone the NAAFI had a little trick up its sleeve to keep you shopping with them. "Stamps or discount?" would be the cry from the checkout assistant once all purchases were through the till. Like 'Green Shield Stamps', you would be given a thin cardboard leaflet to stick the stamps into. Most families would opt for the stamps, as a full card delivered a better cash return to be used for future purchases compared to discount. Single soldiers living in Barracks would tend to take the discount.

This offer extended to all goods and our daughters would be so excited if we purchased any large electrical items like audio equipment or LP records, as the ream of stamps was more than a metre at least for a stereo system. Our girls knew they would have the sheer delight of sticking all the stamps onto the cards a task they genuinely enjoyed.

WASHING DAY

So once more 'moving time' came around again, this was a local move from a 'German Hiring' to an 'Army Quarter'. Necessary as due to Regiments being reduced in size, the housing capacity for families was reduced, and therefore additional housing in the form of 'Hirings' was no longer needed and those families in their 'Hiring' including us, were required to move into empty 'Married Quarters'.

The wonderful thing about 'German Hirings' was that in the basement of the apartment blocks were Communal coin operated (meter) Laundry room facilities that included a Launderette size washing machine and tumble dryer, and we had a separate spinner plus a large drying room. Just magic!

In comparison although the Married Quarter Flats had basements too, they were divided into secure storage compartments one allocated to each family. There were no communal Laundry facilities you needed to own your own washing machine.

Now, this move from Hiring to Quarter was imminent. Because of this Tommy was given time off work to move us himself as there was no time to organise MFO, luckily, we owned a trailer. The 'March in' (takeover of quarter) was on the Monday with the 'March Out' (hand back the Hiring) on the Friday. After the 'hand-over', time was extremely limited as Tommy urgently needed to drive into camp to park up our car, before he immediately departed with the Squadron to Belfast for 4 months, which is why we had to move house so quickly.



As I was a non-driver, Tommy dropped me and our girls off outside the NAAFI in time for us to catch the NAAFI bus to our new home, encouraging me to buy a washing machine ASAP. He hugged and kissed us all goodbye, holding back the tears we waved him farewell outside the NAAFI.

The bus soon arrived we alighted and settled into our seats, even though the sun was shining the journey was melancholy for me. With baby Monique huddled in my arms, I made sure Helen enjoyed the venture and rallied her excitement to soon be exploring our new surroundings. The bus dropped us off right outside our quarter, phew! that was a bonus, a short walk and the key was in the door, kettle on! Monique now fast asleep I settled her in her cot. Whilst listening to Helen having fun inspecting her new bedroom and playroom, I relaxed with a nice cup of tea contemplating my next task which was to purchase a washing machine from our small branch NAAFI, just up the road.

With everyone fed and watered ... and taking advantage of the sunny early afternoon we, all took a stroll to the mini-NAAFI. On arrival I was delighted to see several models of washing machines displayed in the foyer in front of the Managers office who noticing me looking at the machines came to offer me assistance.

I explained my predicament, Hubby in Northern Ireland (well he would almost be there by now) and that I needed to purchase a washing machine using the NAAFI Instalment Plan (easy terms) 12 interest free monthly instalments, first instalment cash with purchase. "Ahh", said the Manager observing I was accompanied by a toddler and a baby in terry towelling nappies (no disposables in those days) and knowing I had no husband at hand beckoned me into his office and offered me a seat opposite his desk.

"We have a bit of a problem, unfortunately a wife is not allowed to make a purchase using a NAAFI Instalment Plan" my faced dropped, visions of buckets of 'Napisan' came into my head not to mention mountains of handwashing for 4 months. The Manager continued "unless it is a 'bone-fide-gift'". That lifted my spirits only to be dashed again! "However, you would hardly buy your husband a washing machine as a present" he said with a gleeful look. Seeing disappointment written all over my face together with desperation, he became sympathetic. Picking up his pen "let me take a few details". I gave him my Husband's name, rank and last three (numbers of his service number) Regimental Address, our Quarter Address. Oh yes, and also my name.

Lucky for me this young Manager was ambitious. Selling 'White Goods' in a branch NAAFI was his baby, his idea had received opposition from the Main NAAFI Manager, so he was keen to make a sale.

"I think I may have a solution to this problem, but I need to make a phone call, can you come back in a couple of hours, say 4pm?" Absolutely I said showing him my gratitude with the biggest smile ever!

Taking my leave, on route to the Children's Play Park I prayed with all my heart that whatever he was considering would work.

On my return to the Manager's Office, the 'Form' was completed, I was told that he would be making a phone call on my behalf and that during that call I would be asked a question. I was given strict instructions that when asked the question all I must say is YES, nothing more! "Okay" I said, feeling trepida-



tion as he began to dial the number. I sat patiently waiting clinging to our girls, hoping with fingers crossed!!!

I heard the Manager quoting model and serial numbers with no mention of the word 'Washing Machine'. When prompted I gave my one line. He listened further to the voice on the phone then with a big smile on his face he replaced the receiver. SUCCESS! I was now the owner of a Hotpoint – "I do hope you can deliver?" He nodded.

This kind man's ingenuity paid off it was a win-win for us both, just goes to show how thinking outside the box is a great talent to behold!

ANTI TERRORIST DEVICE

On the subject of Northern Ireland, the IRA started targeting BAOR families, so the MOD decided to issue a telescopic 6-inch circular mirror for each car as an anti-terrorist device. Great idea when using the car on your own or as a family with two adults present, one to supervise the children and one to carry out the visual check with the mirror, of the underside of the car and wheel arches for explosive devices.

Not so easy, as a lone mother with a baby, toddler, pram, shopping bags and a heavy weight mirror to carry around. But, in true 'Army Wife' style, not to disobey the rules to examine her vehicle, she had a brain-wave bombshell moment – instead of having to carry around a cumbersome mirror (which incidentally alerted every passer-by that you were an 'Army Family') just carry a plastic carrier bag, to kneel on at the curb side to be able to get an even better view of the underside of the car. Awesome and cheaper!

NAUGHTY LADIES

With our guys being away in NI a wife spotted a gap in the market and became an Ann Summer's Consultant/Hostess. She got the idea as her friends were telling her about the poor-quality ill-fitting mail order lingerie gifts they had received in the post, ordered by their husbands from Catalogues whilst "On Tour" in Northern Ireland. Eureka! It would be far better for wives to choose garments for themselves that would "delight" their hubbies on their return.

The Regt Wives Club was approached for approval to hold an 'Ann Summers' evening function. It was described to the committee as a clothing sale run on similar lines to a Tupperware Party with 10% of the proceeds donated to the Regt Wives Club. The event was approved, and the Hostess created flyers and Posters for the Wives Clubs notice boards, she was inundated with so many ladies wanting to attend that a space larger than the usual function room needed to be found!

Our hostess contacted the QMSI PT (Gym Manager) asking him if the Regimental Gymnasium could be used. He agreed and so the event was planned, and the Posters amended to show the new venue. The female community was buzzing, and more and more tickets needed to be printed.

Then completely out of the blue all ticket holders were informed that the event had been cancelled. The Chairman (Commanding Officer's Wife) Regt. Wives Club had been enlightened as to the nature of



this shopping event, she was not amused and deemed it unsuitable. At the time 'Ann Summers' was very new on the market, there were no high street shops back then and the company attracted some disapproval and was frowned upon by the older generation.

The wives were fuming, after all they were adults not to mention mothers and fully able to decide for themselves what functions they wanted to attend if they so wished. The word spread like wildfire and with our husbands over 1000 miles away not being able to calm their wives' anger, a protest ensued.

Eventually a decision was taken by the CO (Commanding Officer) and RSM (Regimental Sergeant Major) that the 'Ann Summer's Party' could go ahead providing no men attended. To ensure this rule was upheld, on the night a two-man guard was installed at the Gym main entrance and all other doors except for fire exits were locked. As the grapevine did its job, the Hostess found herself having to print even more tickets. The knockout event was a huge success a far cry from Tupperware! and the Regt Wives Club received a rather generous donation for its fund!

EL PUEBLO

Shopping in Espana is not that different from my earlier experiences (although I did study Spanish for a year at college before coming to live in Spain and I am still learning daily) however as I'm now older and hopefully a bit wiser I have devised some strategies for making 'viajes de compras' (shopping trips) easier and less time consuming, something that Spanish shoppers have plenty of!

Thank goodness for technology, smart phones, google translate and data packages. That said there is a snag, it is vital to put perfect grammatical English into a translation App to get perfect Español out, colloquial language causes hilarious or even worse, embarrassing moments.

On a visit to a car repair shop where Tommy had arranged for wheel rims to be professionally re-sprayed, he said to the Mechanic in Spanish "I will come back with the tyres to be refitted". He received many smiles from the mechanics as they revealed the literal translation, "I will be walking backwards with my tyres to be re-fitted".

'Pollo' is Chicken, 'Polla' is Cock, in a Restaurant what you never do, is ask the waiter for a Polla Curry....

In our local 'Carniceria' (butchers) I discovered no one queues in Spain, he-who-shouts-loudest gets served next, sound familiar! But the difference now, is that I take notice of other customers already in the shop and therefore ahead of me before I declare "Soy el proximo" I am next.

What is noticeable in Spain is that Spanish people in general do not eat the skin on Pork, although curiously you can buy packets of pork scratchings, belly pork is the only cut that has the skin. This day whilst I was being served one of the butchers, in full view of customers, was busy removing the skin from a whole loin of pork. After the other butcher had finished placing my order in a bag, I asked her colleague in perfect Spanish if I could buy the skin that she was taking off the loin. The reaction I received was baffling, as I knew my request should have been understood without a problem. As I know from experience that I can get myself down an incoherent rabbit hole if I am not careful, I decided to 'phone-a-friend'. I explained to the assistant that Mariano (who she knows well) will take the call, he was born and bred in the village and is bi-lingual, fluent in English. I asked him to explain to the butcher



that I wanted to buy all the skin from the loin of pork that she was de-skinning and not the whole loin without the skin.

As the conversation took place it was highly entertaining to watch the Butcher's expression, she could not understand why I wanted to buy approximately 5 kilos of 'piel de cerdo'. After Mariano had enlightened her that I wanted it to make 'crackling' for my Sunday roasts, she declared in Spanish "Que!" with more words to the effect "They do what with it!?" After the process to cook crackling was explained to her, a look of shock and repugnance came upon her face. She then began to relate the whole conversation to her assistant who was just as dumbfounded. After some further debate as to what to charge me, they gave the pork skin to me gratis and I popped a few euros in a charity tin on the counter. I did suggest they sell some pork loin with the skin on as I would certainly buy it, as I am sure many Ex Pats would do once the word got around!

CHRISTMAS

Lastly a heart-warming story of the generosity of Spanish people.

During Advent I was in our local Chemist buying a collection of make-up brushes for our teenage Granddaughter. On explaining the brushes were a Christmas Present, the assistant gave me a gift of a pretty make up bag to put them in. At the same time two assistants recognised me as a regular customer and gave me a gift of hand cream. Later that week in the Nail Salon the Manicurist gave me a beautiful little wooden ring box as a gift.

Just three examples of how thoughtful the Nationals of Spain can be especially to us foreigners.

That is what is so special to be able to live in such a beautiful country among such wonderful Spanish folk.

So, with Easter just around the corner "Um de ecke" We wish you a safe and happy social distanced time with family and friends.

Thank you for taking the time to read my anecdotes

Take Care, Keep Safe,

Best Wishes

Suzy (Susan) Tomiczek

Finally -

A Joke -

Here in Spain during lockdown I saw a man buying a pinata, some paella and a sombrero at the supermarket.

I thought to myself...Hispanic buying.J



WASTED HOURS

I am not aware that there were any figures ever released showing the number of troops unavailable for Active Service, due to the fact that they were moving about the Globe at any one time. In my Service I experienced this phenomena shortly after the end of the War and shall try to give some idea of what it was like.

The first experience was in 1945 when I was posted to Egypt. The move started as we left an RASC Holding Battalion in Southend, where I had been for 11 days, and proceeding by train to a Transit Camp in Newhaven. It was bitterly cold so we were given an extra blanket. Transit was the operative word as you were either in Transit, or at a Transit camp, during this time. Next morning we were taken to the Docks and boarded the Dinard. This had previously been a pre-war Cross Channel Ferry, but was now used by the Army. As we left the Harbour, we were shown to our boat stations and issued with life jackets, these were the old Kapok filled type which were placed over your head on to the shoulders and secured with a tape under the arms. One bit of advice was, do not dive into the water as your shoulders will stop but your head will continue, this is not good for the neck. The Captain then addressed us over the Tannoy and said that Life Jackets must be worn throughout the journey, as although the War had finished no one had told this to the stray Mines. This definitely gave us the incentive to wear the Life Jacket. On disembarking at Dieppe we were taken to a Transit Camp. In the morning we boarded a train headed for Marseille. This journey UK to Egypt was known as MEDLOC (Mediterranean line of communication)

The MEDLOC journeys were well planned and included stops where we left the train to collect food from tables erected alongside the track. These tables were manned by French women working under Army Catering Corps control. There were, I believe, 6 of us to a compartment and we spent the night sleeping two on the seats, two on the floor, and two in the luggage racks. We tossed up to see who slept where.

The train we had been on, was composed of very old wooden carriages. It was November and very cold and the heating not very efficient. MEDLOC improved over the years and I subsequently travelled in quite luxurious carriages with padded seats which we could sleep on. There was also a sick bay complete with Medical Officer.

We eventually arrived at Marseille and were taken by lorry to a Transit Camp which was situated quite near the sea, and consisted of Tents in the sand under Palm Trees. After a couple of nights we went to the Docks and embarked on a Troopship and sailed to Alexandria, where we were loaded onto a train and sent to a Transit Camp in Quassasin, Egypt. A week spent doing fatigues and being drilled, was quite enough for us, so were glad when we were dispatched in vehicles to our respective Units.

Looking at my Service Records I see this journey from a unit in Southend to a unit in Egypt actually took from the 11th November to the 12th December, if you also take into account that I spent 11 Days In the original Holding Battalion it was a total of 42 days that I was non-operational. If we multiply this by the number in the Draft it would show a considerable number of wasted Man Hours.



The next experience was in 1946 when I went on LIAP (Leave in Addition to Python) . Python during the War was a period of overseas service of four years, then in theory you should be sent home. I knew a S/Sgt in the RASC who boasted of being twice overdue PYTHON .After the War this period was reduced to three years with an additional leave, LIAP, after one year LIAP gave you two weeks leave, but to get home we had to travel by train from Palestine to Port Said, stay in the Transit Camp, and then Embark on a Troop Ship, this time the Dunnattor Castle to Toulon, then by train to Dieppe, and Ferry to Dover. At the end of the leave we went through the MEDLOC procedure again but this time travelling from Dover to Calais and then to Toulon, Port Said, and finally by train to Palestine. Unfortunately my records do not show enough detail to allow a calculation of the travel time.

In 1947 I started a Grand Tour, leaving Egypt and travelling via Aden to Mombasa with a suitable period at a Transit Camp at Port Said before embarking on the Troop Ship. Again my records are not in enough detail to tell me how long this took. The Troop Ship was the Ascania an old previously refrigerated Meat Boat, that did not actually go very fast ,and as we stopped at Aden for a couple of days, and then hit a storm in the Indian Ocean it was not a fast trip.

While in Kenya we actually flew from Nairobi to Mogadishu and back in an Avro Anson the first step towards faster travel.

Then a return journey to Egypt by Troop Ship, this time the Scythia, from Mombasa to Port Suez.

Shortly afterwards it was off to the Transit Camp at Port Said and then another Troop Ship to Famagusta Cyprus with a return trip again to Port Said after about two months,

The next trip was a repeat of the Egypt, Aden, Mombasa journey by ship, we also flew to Mogadishu again but this time in a BOAC Dakota. .

It was now time for my PYTHON, I had been abroad three and a half years due to a necessary extension. No Transit Camp was involved at Mombasa. Disembarking at Port Said, I went to GHQ for my final documentation and then it was another trip to the Transit Camp at Port Said, we eventually boarded the Empress of Australia and came home via Haifa, Piraeus, and Malta to Liverpool.

This was not the end, as I then travelled by Troop Ship from Liverpool to Port Said in 1951, and eventually returned from Port Said to Liverpool in what was to be my last Troop Ship the Empire Windrush, in 1954.

Life on a Troop Ship was not unpleasant although I must admit it was better as a Warrant Officer than as a Private. The Ships varied a lot but I think the Devonshire was about the best for comfort, food and Service.

When you boarded a Troop Ship, the Ships RSM usually had all Senior Ranks together and started handing out duties. Here there were no free rides, but I was getting the hang of this and usually tried to volunteer quicker than others for jobs I fancied. One such was the Empress of Australia. The RSM asked for someone to run the Sergeant's Bar. Before the words were out of his mouth my hand was up. I got the job. It consisted of liaising with the Ships Purser every day and collecting the beer I needed for the day, and then serving it. The first day I explained to the assembled prospective



customers that I was going to charge a penny extra on the cost of each bottle of beer, would they agree? There was a unanimous "Yes". So we opened for business. The Corporal and I shared the profit. Business was brisk and we earned our penny extra.

This job meant I was not given any other duties and only worked during the opening times, life was pleasant and as the ship was a dry ship for the crew, I was very popular with them.

On another ship, the *Ascanius*, on a voyage to Mombasa, we had eaten breakfast and formed up at boat stations when the Captain addressed us over the Tannoy. At the time it was touch and go that we would be fighting the Russians, so when he said "I have an announcement to make", we thought it was that we were at war. However he went on to say that at, and he specified a time, we would cross the Equator. At the time "*King Neptune*" came aboard and was given suitable gifts so he left again. On another occasion when we crossed the Equator during the day we witnessed the crossing of the line ceremony which involved people being shaved with a wooden razor and dunked in a bath of water. I still have "Crossing the Line Certificates" for the two crossings I made.

The Troop Decks in the earlier ships were overcrowded and consisted of wooden tables for twelve fixed to the Deck. We ate at them, sat at them, and slept over them. It was very hot at night, especially in areas like the Red Sea. So some of us would sleep on the bare wooden deck, with a blanket to lie on. Most of the deck hands were Lascars and started washing down the decks at an early hour, if you didn't move you were washed. One thing that was common on all the ships I sailed on was the Ships Mileage. Every day we had the opportunity to purchase a ticket and we gave our estimate as of the mileage covered in the last 24 Hours. I never won. The mileage was recorded by a meter secured at the stern and driven by a propeller trailing in the sea. The stern area was out of bounds and although we tried to read the meter by some means or other we never did.

I managed to have Malaria while crossing the Red Sea and remember apart from the injections of Quinine, an orderly washing me down with iced water to reduce my temperature. I had malaria twice both times it started in Egypt, my fault, as we were told after leaving East Africa to keep taking "Palladrin" which I did but never long enough.

The whole business of Troop Movement was of necessity complicated, and at our level we only saw the nuts and bolts of the system. The person we made contact with was usually an MCO (Movement Control Officer of the Royal Engineers. There was one of these in every major Train Station and usually at junctions where troops had to change trains. He would have Staff and they all wore arm bands marked MCO. During the War while Troop movement was at its peak they were a welcome sight if you were trying to find your way to a camp that was in a remote area. This was all right for individual postings but when a large number of troops were involved they were formed up into DRAFTs. These Drafts could consist of any number of personnel from many different Corps or Regiments, and where did they formed up? Of course at Transit Camps.

Apart from the first Marseille Camp I never experienced another Camp where life was enjoyable. I admit that to have many hundreds of idle troops in one place is not usually conducive to good conduct, but the whole emphasis seemed to be "treat them rough". I am sure there must have been some reasonable staff, but I witnessed a lot of bullying.



One thing that lodged in my mind about Sea travel was arriving in a Port, let's say Port Said. We passed the Statue of De Lessops on our left and then a Johnny Walker advertisement on our right before reaching our moorings which were in open water within the harbour. Immediately boats approached us from every direction, fresh water tankers, food supplies, the ship owner's representative, Customs, MCO Officers, RAMC Officers. And a swarm of Bum boats selling everything from eggs to handbags. They conducted business by throwing a line with a basket attached up to the deck the buyer hauled it aboard and in theory the buyer placed money in the basket and lowered it to the Bum boat, where goods were placed in the in the basket. This was again hauled up by the buyer. As neither the seller nor buyer trusted each other it was a tricky business. While this was going on the rest of the harbour was full of other ships receiving similar treatment. Most harbours were like this, there was an added feature at some of them and that was coaling. There were still some coal fired ships about and they needed to get their fuel coal on board. I only experienced this once and that was in Aden where the ship next to us was being loaded with coal. The manner in which this was done was with two plank gangways laid from the dock to the ship. These were just foot paths, no handrails, and then a succession of men carrying baskets of coal on their heads would run up one of the planks, tip the coal into a bunker on the ship and run down the other plank path to the dock .This went on for a long time, all of our port holes and doors were shut and the ship washed down when the coaling finished but it was a filthy business.

When in later years I flew UK to Singapore in 24 hours, it gave me food for thought. Yes it reduced Wasted Man hours, but what a different life the younger Soldier now lived, to that we Oldies had experienced. Which experience was the best? I don't know, but it was an experience that I enjoyed and something money couldn't buy. I made a rough guess of my wasted travel time between November 45 and June 49 and think it was probably 6 Months.

John Eveleigh 42A Group

Could you please let the Membership Secretary know
your current email address.

memsecboba@gmail.com



A Royal Engineer

*A mere lad of fifteen years
Amid a life of bullying and tears,
I set out one day to end my fears,
I went to join the Engineers.*

*The recruitment centre I soon found,
The place that made me Army bound,
My medical check soon came around,
Of mind and body I was sound.*

*To Chepstow I went off one fine day,
My mind and thoughts in disarray,
No going back, I had seized the day,
In the Army I had chose to stay.*

*A camp in Wales was where I was sent,
I'd never heard of a place called Gwent,
I entered there full of wonderment,
I hoped that now I would be content.*

*Boys from all places, far and wide,
I was now part of that human tide,
I was not tough, at night I cried,
Somehow I knew here I would abide.*

*The life was hard, make no mistake,
But I knew the road that I did take,
My spirit, I knew, just wouldn't break,
From a boy, they said a man they'd make.*

*The life I left was a bitter pill,
The life I chose was all uphill,
We spent our days just doing drill,
Each day to me was such a thrill.*

*Days filled with learning at my trade.
Electrician RE was to be my grade,
Educations foundation was also laid,
Into a Soldier Tradesman I was made.*

*They worked us hard so until when,
The boys we were, soon became men,
We were trained with rifle and with bren,
Fit to fight wherever and when.*

*From day one through trials and fears,
Our training was to last three years,
Then came the day of jubilant cheers,
Our badges said we were Engineers.*

*It was worth all the effort to me you see,
I knew that a Soldier I wanted to be,
The training had made me proud to be,
A Royal Engineer, A Brother RE.*

Dave Timperley



Life after Chap.

We had our eyes opened wide as we undertook our A2 Plant Fitters course. Beachley had some plant, however they were Dinky Toys compared with what faced us at the Sapper plant training wing at Wainscot. Track mounted excavators. Rushton Bucyrus built in Norfolk; I think. Face shovels, back actors and draglines along with Caterpillar, Fowler and Vickers Vigor bulldozers. Much had changed since the end of WW2 and there had been money spent on research to make plant vehicles easier to be quickly transferred from site to site. A local Rochester firm, Blaw Knox had developed a lorry mounted excavator along with a grader. Aveling Austin produced a grader. Graders were used to put the final touches to levelling as well as shaping the contours of roads. The cambers and roadside ditches for draining. The Sapper workshops had old excavators we trained on. The attached REME workshops had one serving 'Tiffy.' the remainder were all civvies. My experience of Command REME workshops was just like I've described. We fitters had volumes to learn.

With our A2 qualifications behind us we were set for the big wide world of Sapper activity. I was posted to 22 Regt at Swindon, the Field Park Sqn, and more importantly the Plant Troop. Due to us wearing blackened web belts and gaiters and usually grease stained overalls along with any other matter that could stick to cloth we were referred to as 'Tramp Troop.' I was there for nearly a month before our troop officer, Capt. J.J.Vanner condescended to interview and welcome me to his troop. I can remember the look of surprise when he asked about my qualifications and I told him I had attained all five First Class subjects as well as my trade qualifications. I informed him that my next targets were to get a driving licence and to pass the B2 test for field engineering. Later I learned the JJ as we called him, had transferred to the Sappers from the Artillery and that his father, a retired Brigadier was the major shareholder in the Aldershot Traction (bus) Company.

The lads were a smashing lot and we were sited on the periphery of the camp due to the amount of heavy equipment and vehicles we had, this suited us being away from all the main camp, it also meant that our NAAFI break of normally fifteen minutes was extended by all to about an hour due the distance we had to travel. Just like most of us ex boys I was keen on promotion and both surprised and disappointed to be called into JJ's office one morning and told I was taking over the troop POL account, this was just after passing my driving test. The Regt. had its own POL account to take care of the MT troop. We had different requirements as most of our engines used diesel plus, we had a Tecalemit trailer for power greasing etc. All of the machines and trucks had works cards as opposed to works tickets for transport. Many of the static machines, like compressors and generators had hour clocks as opposed to mileage clocks. Each month all of the works cards and 108s had to tally before JJ signed them and sent them off to the Command Secretariat. It transpired the previous holder of this position, Tom Masterton was about to be pensioned off with his 22 years under his belt and had been making a mess of the monthly returns, consequently this caused JJ extra work. Proudly I can say life for him became easier once I took over and soon, I was a lance jack.

Life was busy for me as during the winter I completed the upgrade course in Field Engineering to B2 standard within the Regt. and got married. My weeks driving course was overseen by MTO, a young Lt. doing his Nat. Service. I had an hour behind the wheel of a one-ton Austin wireless truck, nothing about the Highway Code. On my last day I was plonked in a Land Rover and told to take the Lt. MTO, to the Mil. College of Science at Shrivenham. It was in the middle of the afternoon that we set off. During the trip I asked when I would be taking the test. 'I'll let you know later!' As we were leaving, he guided me through Swindon and told me I was in the process of doing the test. It was lighting up time and the workers were leaving the Swindon Railway works and seemed to be everywhere. Soon my left foot was searching for the dip switch for the headlights, to me this was where it normally was. The MTO pointed to a switch in the centre of the steering wheel. We got back all in one piece and he promptly told me I had passed and no questions were asked.



We had three Scammell 'Knockers' with trailers complete with tow bars. Originally, they were for delivering Tanks but we Sappers inherited them to shift bulldozers. They were a nightmare to drive with six gears in a crash gearbox and a top speed of 24 MPH. and we were doing a job on Salisbury Plains at the Warminster end. Capt. JJ in his wisdom told me to collect a ten-ton AEC complete with a crash gearbox and tow the Tecalemit trailer to the job complete with a 600-gallon tank of diesel. I could have died; however, I survived the whole episode. We had the job of tidying up the grandstand area at Tilshead for a forthcoming military display to try and sell British Arms and Armaments to which overseas governments were invited. We also had the job of 'burying' shot up tanks off the range. Apparently, the CO of Warminster Camp could have sold them for scrap but declined as he didn't want the job of accepting bids and having to collect the money on behalf of the MOD. Take a look at the attached photo, I had just repaired the Fowler dozer and scraper in the foreground that was starting the excavation for the surrounding doomed tanks with others to collect. What it doesn't show is the other fitters removing bits and pieces to weigh in at the local scrap merchants for beer money. Nobody needed to draw wages for many weeks.

Colin Weir 55A





Not what you think

Golfer to caddie: "Why do you keep looking at your watch? I find it very distracting."

Caddie: "It's not a watch, sir – it's a compass."

Getting the right result

"You're late on the tee, John."

"Yes, well being a Sunday, I had to toss a coin to see if I should go to church or go and play golf."

"Okay, but why are you so late?"

"I had to toss it 15 times!"

The last laugh

An argumentative drunk had been looking for a fight all afternoon in the club bar after losing his match, finally aiming a punch at the man next to him. The man ducked and the drunk, losing balance, fell off his stool on to the floor. By the time he'd dusted himself down and picked himself up, his opponent had departed.

"Not much of a fighter, was he?" he complained to the barman.

"Not much of a driver either, sir," said the barman, gazing out of the window. "He's just driven over your clubs."

The New BOBA Web Page will be operative from 31st March 2021

<http://armyapprenticecollegechepstow.co.uk/>

Paper Copy of the Beachley Echoes

If you require a paper copy of the newsletter please drop the Editor a line stating name, group and address.

Editor's Contact Details:

Ray Armstrong
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Tel: 01942 491140
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Please note that all arrangements for the BOBA Reunion will be organised by

Chris Ricketts

35 Bigstone Grove

Tutshill

Chepstow

Monmouthshire

NP16 7EN



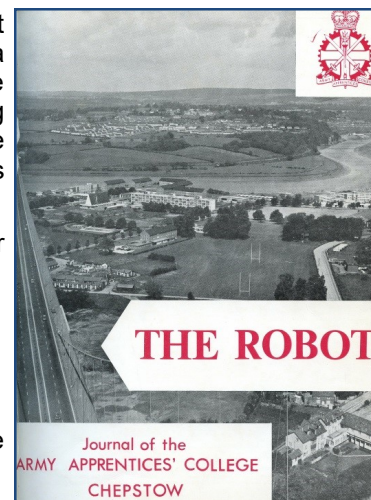
New Robots for Old

Do you ever wish that you had held onto The Robots covering your time at Beachley? Well you can now get them in PDF (Portable Document Format) on a disc. As the result of a request 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

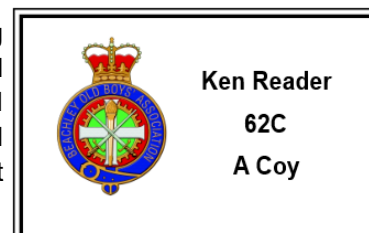
- ◆ Your name and group
- ◆ Address
- ◆ Month and year of arrival—month and year of departure

to Ken Reader (contact details below). Please note that there may be a delay if the editions covering your time have not yet been scanned.



2022 Reunion ID Badge and Holder

Once again we will be producing a reunion name holder for members attending the reunion next 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.



Lt Col (Retd) Ken Reader OBE BEM Minst RE

Carrick House, 8 Cross Lane, Little Downham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2TJ

Telephone 01353 699096

email ~ kenreader@msn.com

Photos and Memorabilia. It is hoped that the members of **72 Groups** can search their attics and albums for items and send them to Alan Chatt for display at their 50th anniversary reunion in September 2022.

Honours and Awards Book. We maintain a record of 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 a Committee member 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, 59A – 62C, 63A, 64A, 64B, 64C, 65B, 65C, 66A, 66B, 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.

Alan Chatt

8 The Chase, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 9DX

Telephone 01914 175960

email ~ a.w.chatt.121@btinternet.com



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BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNIONS

For many years, BOBA members, many with their Ladies, have met annually, usually on the third weekend in September, in the Chepstow area.

The reunion Friday evening get-together for 2019 was held at The Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow and was deemed to be a success. This year will see a continuation of this. The other main actions apart from Sunday's Founders' Day Church parade will take place at The Heritage Centre.

In order that you can attend any of the BOBA activities held during the reunion weekend i.e. Golf, Reunion Dinner, etc., you must be a Member of The Association. The forms for Membership are in the Beachley Echoes Newsletter and should be returned to the Membership Secretary, Derek Fox, his details are on the Committee page.

Reunion Friday

Friday is a social evening, including supper, where Members can enjoy each others company, chat or swing the lamp over a drink or two.

Reunion Saturday

Friday and Saturday allows members who have previously registered, to take part in 'The BOBA Golf Open'. An 18 hole Stableford tournament held at the Golf Club at nearby Coleford.

Saturday the BOBA Heritage Display takes place in the Heritage Centre

The BOBA AGM will take place at 14:30 in the Florence Court of The Beaufort Hotel.

The AGM is where BOBA business from the previous and coming year, is discussed and voted upon

In the evening the **BOBA ANNUAL DINNER** takes place when approximately 200 (pre-booked) members, including Ladies, Guests and Families sit down for a pleasant three course meal, followed by an evenings entertainment with a live group or a disco in the function room. Many dance into the early hours, whilst others have a great time just chatting, reminiscing and enjoying a social drink.

Reunion Sunday

Sunday rounds off the weekend with a mini 'Parade and March Past' on the parade ground in Beachley Barracks (weather permitting).

The parade is followed by our Founders Day church service in St George's Church.

For further information on the Reunion weekend, please contact Chris Ricketts (details on the Committee Contact details Page 18)



WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE ARMY?

What did you do in the Army? Is a question I have been asked on several occasions, I usually pass it off by saying "Vehicle Repair", but what did I really do? I decided to make a list of all my activities in connection with Vehicles.

Here goes.

My first unit in Man's Service was to an RASC GT "General Transport" Company. We carried out running repairs, but also overhauled engines, this was achieved by removing and stripping down the engine, and sending the engine block to Dennis Motors in Guildford for reboring. On its return we reassembled and refitted the engine. Life proceeded at a reasonable pace with very few problems. One memorable thing though was our Regimental Police Sergeant who was the most amiable RP I ever met, had one trait that was a pleasure to watch. If he received a telephone call from an Officer he would say "I am saluting you now Sir", and proceed to do so.

There were two of us young men in the Workshop, both eighteen, and after listening to the stories told by our elders decided we wanted to live a more exciting life, and volunteered to go to Germany. He went to India and I went to Egypt.

This posting was to 40 Company RASC in the First Infantry Division. Firstly, I worked in the Workshops Platoon doing general repairs, but then went into one of the Vehicle Platoons as a Platoon Fitter. Platoon Fitters stayed with their Platoons and all though we still came under the Workshop Officer on all technical matters, day by day we were under the control of the Platoon Commander. This was an interesting but tiring job. Interesting as when we moved to Palestine as Divisional Transport, we were constantly on the move, either carrying Stores or Troops. As Platoon Fitter I travelled in the last vehicle in the Convoy and repaired vehicles by the road side, which sometimes meant that Vehicles were passing me on their way back to Camp, before I had reached our destination. However, I managed to see most of the Historical areas in Palestine in this job.

It was tiring, as in a Transport Company every vehicle had to be at instant readiness to move. So, all refuelling or repairs had to be completed before your day's duties finished.

My next move was back to the Workshop Platoon as a Lance Corporal carrying out general repairs and recovery. Suddenly everything changed. I was recommended for a post in the CIMT (Central Inspectorate Mechanical Transport) based at GHQ Middle East Land Forces in Fayid, Egypt.

Then all the talk and promises we had received at Beachley about us being the Senior NCO's of the future, came true, as within about two months I went from Lance Corporal to S/Sgt. This rapid promotion was not unusual at the time. The new job placed me on an Inspection Team consisting of two S/Sgt's and a Major, and involved traveling throughout Egypt inspecting every RASC Unit that possessed a Vehicle. For our own transport we had a Humber Snipe for the Major complete with Driver, and a Dodge 15 cwt for us lower mortals.

At that time the Ground Nut scheme had just started In Uganda and several extra RASC Units were required in Kenya to carry out logistical work in connection with the scheme, this involved the formation of new African Companies and the movement of a specialist company of Tank Transporters from Egypt



accompanied by an existing GT Company. Both of these units had to be inspected to ensure that they were all Class One before being shipped to Kenya.

Prior to this movement to Kenya, the CIMT had a team in Palestine and a team in Egypt, the two teams sharing the visits to Cyprus, but with the movement of vehicles from Egypt and the formation of the African Units it was decided to raise another team that would be responsible for inspecting all the RASC Vehicles in Aden, Kenya, Italian Somali Land, and Cyprus. I managed two tours of these countries before coming home in 1949.

Here I was posted to 46 Company RASC at Shorncliffe, our life was spent in the Workshop buildings. Then things looked more interesting when I was given a posting to France to establish a Workshop in Montgomery's Head Quarters at Fontainebleau. A most interesting job.

Then off to "1951 Static Workshop Platoon," a type of unit I had never heard of before so had no idea of what to expect. On arrival I found it was at an ATS Training Centre for Drivers and Clerks, and as the Driver Training used vehicles, we were there to maintain them, plus any domestic vehicles. Our OC was a Captain who had just returned from Persia, and we functioned as an independent unit within the ATS Unit, who's Staff were responsible for administration.

We were Living in in the grounds of what had been a distinguished Hall and there were still the remains of grandly laid out gardens and a tennis court to be seen. The ATS recruits were in Nissen huts, while the ATS Permanent Staff were in the Hall. Our OC was in the Gate Lodge at the entrance to the drive, and I was in the Grooms Quarters in what had been the Stable Yard.

Then off once again retracing my steps to Egypt. I boarded a troop ship as a "Mechanist Staff Sergeant" of the RASC and disembarked as a Staff Sgt in the REME. This was at Phase Two of the formation of REME,

My destination this time, Station Workshops El Kirsh, which was a new unit formed on Phase Two of REME. All of us were ex RASC so apart from a different cap badge we carried on as usual. Most of our tradesmen were locally employed but we did have a few army tradesmen. Life settled down and apart from local riots which meant we were confined to Camp, not unpleasant.

We shared the camp with 3 Infantry Workshop who were responsible for all our administration. They eventually moved on and 16 Airborne Workshop came in their place and took over our administration.

One memory is of being sent to Port Suez at the time of the Mossadeq Crisis. This gentleman was nationalising the Oil Fields much to the the displeasure of the Oil Company, Great Britain and the USA. It was decided that a Force would be formed to go to the Gulf and sort things out. My task was to ensure all the vehicles for this Force were in working order, remove the batteries, and set up a battery charging system on the ship.

I remember there were a lot of Bren Carriers being loaded, and I was originally going with the Force to the Gulf, but somebody else got that pleasure, and I was glad, as on arrival at the Gulf they did nothing other than stand off shore for quite some time until the USA took action which left our Force redundant, so it returned to Egypt.



Once more I had settled down to life in the Station Workshop, when life changed yet again. The DADME required a Warrant officer to take charge of a DADME Vehicle Inspection Team and I was recommended for, and given, the post.

Once again, I was a member of a travelling Inspection Team, only this time I was in charge and had a Sergeant and a Corporal doing the Inspections. Our remit was to inspect all REME Units in the Canal Zone which involved us in travelling around the Canal Zone visiting many of the locations I had visited during my previous Tour in Egypt. The job was fairly easy, I prepared my own programme of inspections and arranged for the necessary accommodation for my team.

My lasting memory of this job was inspecting the Base Workshop in Tel El Kebir. The report was Unsatisfactory, and as I always had to report my findings to the OC before leaving the Unit, I found myself on this occasion presenting the findings to a Brigadier and a Colonel, neither of them very pleased. They were rather searching as to my experience in the job but I stuck to my guns and in fact was praised by my own Colonel for not being influenced by their Ranks

Then once again I returned home to the UK and after Disembarkation Leave found myself back as a Staff Sergeant, due to the previous promotion being temporary, with orders to proceed to County Durham. This was as a PSI (Permanent Staff Instructor) with a Territorial Unit. I stayed with them for nearly three years and the only thing I didn't do was Training. Instead collecting equipment for Weekend Camps, this included rations as well, helping to make stalls for a Children's fair, running a Bar, updating all the EM-ERS that had not been done for some time, maintaining the store accounts, collecting equipment from the homes of the discharged members. Defusing a grenade that had been handed in to us. Moving the venue from a wooden hutted camp to a Drill Hall in the town. This was not the life for me.

I now realised that my opinion of REME, into which I had been dragged kicking and screaming, would have to change, so I applied for an Artificers Course and this was my next posting.

The time spent at Borden I found in some ways boring, in others very enlightening, over all it was worth the effort expended. As so many have experienced the Course, I will say no more apart from one experience

The IRA had stolen some firearms from Arborfield, which caused instant panic at Borden. The immediate reaction was to review the night time Guards. There was already a Guard on the premises but it was decided that a Cover Guard was needed. So extra personnel were positioned in a slightly higher position overlooking the main guard area so that in the event of an attack against the Guard Room the Cover Guard would be in a position to attack intruders from the rear. The Guard Commander situated in the Guard Room had a man positioned in the entrance to the Armoury which was opposite the Guard Room Door, so that in the event of intruders entering the Guard Room when the door was opened by the Guard Commander, that man had a direct line of fire against the intruders. The fact that this placed the Guard Commander in the line of fire between Intruders and the Armoury Guard was a bit worrying for the Guard Commander.

My next move was to a Vehicle Depot in Ashchurch. Those were the days when stores of Vehicles were kept so that in the event of Hostilities, Vehicles and Tanks were immediately available. The Tanks at our Depot were Comets, already obsolete, but were still being maintained in First Class condition. During my



time they were finally sold off with guns suitably de commissioned by cutting a hole in the barrel.

The "B" Vehicles were inspected every 6 Months and any defects rectified. As they hadn't moved for 6 Months there were not a lot of faults but one common one was oil leaks. Oil seals then were usually made of leather and this dried out when the vehicles were not used so we replaced them. I suggested we give the vehicle a longer road test which would allow oil to circulate round the seals making them supple and stop the leaks. It was tried and found to be effective but not always. It did however slightly reduce the number of oil seals being used.

Another problem we experienced was driving Thorneycroft Antars within the Depot. All the buildings were square and laid out in blocks which meant constant turning of the steering wheel round 90 Degree corners which depleted the air supply to the steering. We also took DUKW's on the River Seven. Fairly happy days and certainly a nice part of England.

Then once more on the move this time to a Tank Regiment in Germany, where I took over the repair responsibility for C Squadron. Lots of schemes. Travel by night and Lager up by day. Not always the same, but we did it a lot. Centurions and Conquerors were our tanks and I must say the Centurion was a hard working fairly reliable Vehicle.

One memory was about the invitation to "Ivy Bensons all Girls Band" who came out one Cambrae celebration day and played to every body's pleasure. As part of the celebration, I built the front part of a First World War Tank using timber and linoleum, it was then painted by one of the Tankies, it looked quite realistic. Then it was goodbye and off again.

This time to Singapore a 24-hour journey in a Britannia (Whispering Giant) aircraft. The Unit was 40 Base Workshop. I was taking over the Vehicle Section just as it was switching from complete overhauls to economical repairs only. I lived in Married Quarters about 300 yards from the back gate of the Workshop so enjoyed dinners at home.

One item of interest, the RAF were intending to recovery some of their Fuel Tankers from another country, I can't remember which one. The problem was they were too high to enter the aircraft supplied to airlift them out. This problem was solved by 40 Base providing wheels with a hard strip of Rubber round the rim instead of a tyre. This lowered the vehicles sufficiently for entry to the plane.

At the time there was cooperation between the three services, so if I had an RAF Tanker with a leaking tank, I could remove the tank and send it to the Royal Navy Dockyard where they would make and fit a new base.

There was a Changing of the Colours Ceremony during my time, and as a Staff Sgt I became a Colour Sergeant for the day by draping a Red Sash diagonally from shoulder to hip. There were two of us doing this, the other one lowered the old flag, and I raised the new one. All very complicated as we had to achieve both moves at the same time. On the day, after going on parade at a very early hour to avoid standing in the rays of the sun, which were very hot, the Officer who was taking the Parade was late, so it was quite warm by the time he arrived and in my position at the flag post I heard someone say to our Commanding Officer, "Your Men don't look very fit, look at the sweat stains on their uniforms".



Eventually it was back to the UK and a posting to Woolwich. This time to REME Technical Branch where I sat as the only soldier amongst many Civilians. My task was to write a Manual for the Maintenance and Repair of a Vehicle constructed from a Thorneycroft Chassis, Bedford Axles, Bedford Engine, and a Simons Crane.

Nothing startling here but before I could finish this Task I was off again, this time to MEXE (Military Experimental Establishment) in Christchurch. Still part of REME Technical Branch, but now writing various Manuals and making a Maintenance Assessment report on Equipment before purchase. This involved visiting manufacturers across the country.

This was my final move, but before I left to go to my civilian employment, I had a visit from the Woolwich OC who told me I could finish my service and come back the next day to the same desk, but as a civilian. My reply "No thank you"

So, what did I do in the Army? The question should have been "What did the Army let you do"? All I can say is that I had the opportunity to live a life within an Establishment that took good care of me and allowed me to see and experience life in many countries, Oh and yes I did repair Vehicles.

John Eveleigh 42A Group.

A couple of golfing jokes

Mexico

Two Mexican detectives were investigating the murder of Juan Gonzalez.

'How was he killed?' asked one detective.

'With a golf gun,' the other detective replied.

'A golf gun? What's a golf gun?'

'I don't know, but it sure made a hole in Juan.'

The married couple

As a couple approaches the altar, the groom tells his wife-to-be, "Honey, I've got something to confess: I'm a golf nut, and every chance I get, I'll be playing golf!"

"Since we're being honest," replies the bride, "I have to tell you that I'm a hooker."

The groom replies, "That's okay, honey. You just need to learn to keep your head down and your left arm straight."

Eggs

A golfer sliced a ball into a field of chickens, striking one of the hens and killing it instantly. He was understandably upset, and sought out the farmer. "I'm sorry," he said, "my terrible tee-shot hit one of your hens and killed it. Can I replace the hen?"

"I don't know about that," replied the farmer, mulling it over. "How many eggs a day do you lay?"



Editor's Ramblings 2021

Well, here we go again. Is it really another year gone by?

When I put my pen down last year I was looking forward to a year of peace and quiet but it never happened. Covid-19 has kept it's head above the parapet and put all of our plans in the trash can. Long boring days with the family centre of concentration being that electronic chapel in the corner, the television. Bringer of news, directions and orders to stay at home and watch more TV.

During more normal times I am out and about, mainly driving tour coaches around with usually three tours a month but this lockdown situation has brought hospitality business to a standstill. So far this year I have not been able to do any productive work at all. Last year I did manage two tours to Blackpool, one day trip to Chester and another day in York. So, the last twelve months have been rather sparse in miles covered. I have been relegated to car trips onlt to the local superstore usually about once a fortnight.

What have I been up to during this enforced stagnation?

Found the problem with my tilt/pan/zoom corner camera, it was a power supply issue. The required voltage for the motors was not reaching the camera due to voltage drop along the power feed cable. This was resolved by mounting the power supply alongside the camera mount and feeding mains electricity directly to the PSU. This camera is now working correctly. Whilst doing this I also wired in a Joystick control for this camera. Suddenly all the evening

visits from "young" people parking their cars outside the property to eat the McDonalds purchased at the local eatery, leaving the rubbish on the roadway, have ended. Also, the strong smell of nefarious smoking substances has vanished.

I also installed another camera under the eaves and within an hour I spotted a neighbour fly tipping alongside my rear fence. A knock at their door resulted in an instant clean-up.

Fitted three infrared heaters in to the gazebo.

Manufactured and installed a blue LED underwater light for the water effect, using 240 LEDs and encapsulating it in resin.

Model railway enhancements, very little due to still having a house full.

Lottery win still evasive, rather obvious really because I am still here attempting to produce something for this year's Echoes.



**2020 CENOTAPH REPORT**

The Pandemic and the subsequent Lockdowns played havoc with the 2020 Cenotaph Arrangements.

Applications were on a par with 2019, 47 in all, but in the end, we had to accept that we would not be able to take part. I had initially requested some 50 tickets, but due to the ever-changing conditions, we were initially allocated 8 places, which were also finally cancelled due to Lockdown 2.

With the current situation improving on a day-to-day basis, I am hopeful we will be able to provide a respectable contingent for the 2021 Parade.

All names who were on the 2020 list will be carried forward to the 2021 submission.

However, these will need to be confirmed by each applicant and the 2021 Application Form will be found adjacent to this report.

Applications are also welcomed from new Members, especially from the 70's, 80's and 90's groups to ensure we have a sizeable group to represent the Association. An Invitation post will also be added to the AAS / AAC Heritage Centre Facebook Page to widen catchment of the later groups.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who applied last year, for your patience and understanding of my efforts in trying to organise the event in those chaotic times last summer.

I look forward to a more successful venture in November 2021.

Anthony Waite 60C

Cenotaph Co-ordinator 2020/21

This is always an extremely moving event.

Please consider joining us on November 14th 2021 and use the opportunity to say your thank you to those who gave their everything for the future of others.

Could you please let the Membership Secretary know your current email address.

memsecboba@gmail.com



Information required for Tickets for the Cenotaph Parade Sunday November 14th 2021

Please return by email to anthony.waite22ss@btinternet.com or post to address below

Name (in Full) including Title where relevant.

Postal Address including Postcode.

Group / Squadron No + Dates attended (Starting & Leaving) Beachley School / College.

Date of Birth.

Place of Birth.

Contact Telephone Nos – (Landline and Mobile).

Landline.

Mobile.

Email Address.

Military Service No.

Passport Serial No or Driving Licence No.

Passport Issuing Authority (IPS or Other, please state).

Passport Start and Expiry Date.

(You will need to bring the relevant item as Photographic Identification Evidence on the day). (Serving / Reservist ID Card is acceptable).

Reserved Parking Requirements in Pall Mall – Yes / No – Vehicle details will also be required.

Details of Medals awarded.

Carer's Ticket Required – Yes / No.

(Note: - Carer's Details (as relevant above), will be required as above in addition to your own).

Assuming we are allocated enough Tickets and you are allocated a Ticket, You will be issued with a NAMED Ticket which you will need to bring with you for admission to Horse Guards Parade, (No Ticket and /or No ID = No Entry). Reserved Car Parking is available if required.

I will be requesting additional Tickets for 2021, but if I do not have enough to go round, the tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis, following those that were on the 2020 List and have already confirmed they wish to attend in 2021. Applicant Names of those who applied last year 2020, which was unfortunately cancelled, will be carried forward as a priority for the 2021 Parade.

Security has been tightened considerably over the last few years and will no doubt continue to be tightened further in the future. 2021 will be no exception. Your Details will need to be submitted to me no later than the end of July 2021, hence the defined date for closure of applications.

If you are allocated a Ticket and then find you cannot attend, please let me know by Phone / Email or return the ticket to me by post as soon as possible, so that the place can possibly be allocated to the next person on the Reserve List.

Anthony M Waite

Sutton Lodge

22 Seymour Street

Wellington

Somerset

TA21 8JU

CENOTAPH PARADE CO-ORDINATOR 2021 – BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

Tel 01823 669336

Mob 07788 581775



BOBA Committee list as at February 2021

NAME	GP	ROLE	E-MAIL	ADDRESS	TEL NO
Waite Tony	60C	Remembrance Co ordinator	anthony.waite22ss@btinternet.com	Sutton Lodge, 22 Seymour Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8JU	01823 669336 or 07788 581775
Chrascina Alf	67B	Golf Organiser/Reunion	alf.chrascina@gmail.com	April Cottage, Silver Street, Curry Mallet, Somerset, TA3 6SR	07484 842355
Fox, Derek	58B	Membership	memsecoba@gmail.com	51 Church Close, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE32 1JU	01760 788159 or 07842555110
Armstrong, Ray	55A	Beachley Echoes Editor	r.armstrong@virgin.net	125 Baker Street, Wigan, Greater Manchester WN3 5HG	01942 491140 or 07941 432306
Henderson, Brian	65A	Hon Treasurer	brianhend@hotmail.com	21 Hartland View Road, Morteheo, Woolacombe, North Devon EX34 7HB	01271 871716 or 07970 951259
Warren, Geoff	67C	Co-opted - Local Facilitator	sad-per0519@hotmail.co.uk	1 Priory Close, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 5ND	01291 620374 or 07392494761
Reader, Ken	62C	Co-opted - Ad Hoc assistance	kenreader@msn.com	Carrick House, 8 Cross Lanelittle Downham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2TJ	01353 699096 or 07752 209941
Ricketts, Chris	65A	Chairman/Reunion	chris.ricketts@talktalk.net	35 Bigstone Grove, Tutshill, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 7EN	01291 626730 or 07779 719422
Thomas, Syd	47A	President	sydhom-as4hd@gmail.com	4 Hawthorn Drive, Coychurch, Bridgend, Glamorgan CF35 5ER	01656 661180 or 07785 282266
Tony Taylor	68C	Heritage	tontertay@gmail.com	61, Severn Avenue, Tutshill, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 7EE	07989 503893
Barker Stephen	66C	Merchandising Manager	sebakker@peterloo-uk.com	Suite 7, Booths Park 1, Booths Park, Chelford Road, Knutsford, WA16 8GS	01565 757845 or 07712 108078
White, Chalky	73A	Hon Secretary	garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk	9 Appledore Drive, Allesley Park, Coventry, West Midlands CV5 7PQ	02476404999 or 07576844990
Chat, Alan	59A	Heritage	alanchatt70@gmail.com	8 The Chase, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 9DX	0191 4175960 or 07462538613
Watkins, Geoff	53A	Heritage/Reunion	geoff@cedarsedge.co.uk	Cedars Edge, Bristol Road, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 3JA	01454 412508 or 07780 916227



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

C/O, Mr. Chris Rickets, 35 Bigstone Grove, Tutshill, Chepstow, Mon., NP16 7ENT.

President
Lt Col (Retd) S. Thomas
4 Hawthorn Drive
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Bridgend
Glamorgan
CF35 5ER

Email sydney1931@btinternet.com
Tel. 01656 661180



Secretary
Mr. Gary White
9 Appledore Drive
Allesley Park
Coventry
West Midlands
CV5 7PQ

Email: garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk
Tel. 02476 404999

September 2020

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BOBA

HELD AT THE BEAUFORT HOTEL, CHEPSTOW

ON FRIDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER 2020.

Due to Covid restrictions
The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
was cancelled.

Could you please let the Membership Secretary know
your current email address.

memsecboba@gmail.com



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET at 31st January 2021

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

ASSETS

	£0.00	Cash in Hand	£0.00
	£9,080.72	Cash in Bank	£11,271.88
£9,080.72		Total Cash	£11,271.88
£43,097.48		Monmouthshire Building Society Account	£43,275.74
£0.00		Sundry Debtors	£0.00
£52,178.20		Total Liquid Assets	£54,547.62

SHOP STOCK

£1,729.49	BOBA/AAS Regalia	£1,757.25
£53,907.69	Total Current Assets	£56,304.87

LIABILITIES

-£49.16	Reunion	£0.00
£237.11	BOBA Golf Fund	£237.11
£325.90	Benevolent Fund	£325.90
-£49.42	Heritage Centre	£314.82

£464.43	Total Liabilities	£877.83
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£53,443.26	Net Working Capital	£55,427.04
	being Current Assets minus Liabilities	

FIXED ASSETS

£0.00	£0.00	Capital Property	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	Investments	£0.00	£0.00

GENERAL PURPOSES FUND

	£52,619.45	Balance as per last Balance sheet	£53,443.26
	£823.81	Add surplus of Income	£1,983.78
£53,443.26	£0.00	Subtract deficit of Expenditure	£0.00
£53,443.26		Accumulated General Purposes Fund	£55,427.04
		being Net Working Capital and Total Fixed Assets	

Audited By:

Name	
Signed	
Date	

Treasurer:

Name	B Henderson
Signed	<i>Signed on original</i>
Date	

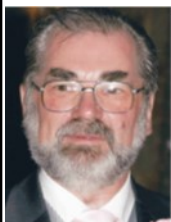


GENERAL PURPOSE FUND SUMMARY (FY 2020/21)

EXPENDITURE	2019	2020/21	INCOME	2019	2020/21
Expenses	£ 2,040.67	£ 528.20	Subscriptions	£ 3,622.50	£ 3,650.00
Refunds	£ -	£ 40.00	Refunds	£ 109.20	£ -
Fees	£ -	£ -	Fees	£ -	£ -
Shop Postage	£ -	£ 22.10	Shop Postage	£ 4.00	£ 68.70
Stationery	£ 162.43	£ 44.91	Bldg Soc Interest	£ 127.62	£ 178.26
Postage	£ 258.04	£ 136.05	Church Collection	£ 342.00	£ -
Website	£ 217.21	£ 751.24	Shop Profit	£ 211.86	£ 324.88
Insurance	£ -	£ 95.20	Investment Dividends	£ -	£ -
Donations	£ 616.00	£ -	Donations	£ 290.00	£ 2,022.30
Wreaths	£ -	£ 37.00			
Misc Expenditure	£ 325.53	£ 95.86	Misc Income	£ 1.61	£ -
Reunion	£ 40.00	£ -	Reunion	£ -	£ -
Transfers	£ -	£ -	Transfers	£ -	£ -
Write Offs	£ 29.10	£ 49.16			
CD/DVD's	£ -	£ -	CD/DVD Sales	£ 45.00	£ 15.50
Heritage	£ -	£ 2,356.00	Heritage	£ -	£ -
Name Badges	£ -	£ -	Name Badges	£ 9.00	£ 10.50
Echoes	£ 250.00	£ 130.64	Echoes	£ -	£ -
Total Expenditure	£ 3,938.98	£ 4,286.36	Total Income	£ 4,762.79	£ 6,270.14
Surplus	£ 823.81	£ 1,983.78			
Deficit					
Grand Totals	£ 4,762.79	£ 6,270.14		£ 4,762.79	£ 6,270.14

Comments (FY 2020/21 v 2019):

1. Income from subscriptions remains steady.
2. Building Society interest very low, income minimal. Due to low interest rates action to re-invest has been postponed.
3. Production and postage costs of The Echoes is steady but as more members request hard copies these costs will rise, however because of due diligence by the Editor costs this year have been kept to a minimum.
To keep costs down please view the document online.
4. Shop sales/profit show an increase.
5. Heritage expenditure by BOBA was mainly on the refurbishment of the Beachley Gates
6. The association received a single generous donation from one of its members.
7. Website fees have increased due to the development of a new website.
8. Due to Covid 19 restrictions some end of year accounting actions could not be completed by 31 December 2020 so a decision was made to extend our accounting year by one month to 31 January 2021.
9. Account shows an income in excess of expenditure of £1983.78 for FY 2020/21. This was mainly due to the lower level of expenditure on expenses.

**BOBA Membership Secretary's Report ~ by Derek Fox 58B Group****Report Dated 05/03/2020****Membership / New Members:**

There have been 17 new members join since the last Echoes (2020).

New Members.

Mr	R A	Robin/Rob	Wells	71B	C
Mr	N J	Neil John	Foster	86 Sqn	
Mr	C G	Christopher Glennn	LeGallez	77B	B
Mr	J W	Jeremy William (Jez)	Dykes	92	89Sqn
Mr	M	Martin	Goodearl	78C	B
Mr	KBL	Kevin	Swallow	66A	B
Mr	J A	Jim	Howes	66C	C
Mr	C	Colin (Col)	Jones	85C	C
Mr	DR	Darrel	Glover	80C	D
Mr	JP	Julian Peter	Hill	80C	A
Mr	DM	David/Dave	Gargett	80C	E
Mr	P	Paul	Kerridge	80C	B
Mr	RF	Richard	Hartwell	88 Sqn	4 Trp
Mr	NW	Nick	Butt	80C	D
Mr	NC	Nicholas	Trood	71C	A
Mr	C	Colin	McKeever	81C	B
Mr	G S.J.	Graham	Hussey	72A	C

Mr. Chris Angell is paying subs but has not registered with the association. I have tried contacting him on Facebook but he appears to be ignoring me. I seek him here, I seek him there.

Membership Numbers

Paid up members total is currently unclear as 2021 subscriptions are not as yet paid for the new financial year. The total should be known for the A.G.M.(or whatever)

New Member Booklets

I am now in receipt of the BOBA Objectives and Rules Book. New members will be receiving the new copies wef the date above..

Sympathy / Get Well Soon cards

As previously advised, I am now holding Sympathy and Get Well Soon cards. All I need now is your input as to who has passed away and who is sick. Members will slip through the net but it would be good to show to others that we are here and that we do care.

**In Memoriam**

I have been advised of the following deaths since the last copy of the Echoes.

1207	Mr	GA	Geoff	Backhouse	56B
1214	Mr	W	William	Blackman	57A
	Mr	D	Dave	Cashell	60C
	Lt.C				
63	ol.	AG	Glen	Chalmers	56B
694	Mr.	JR	John	Fleming	53B
1080	Mr	BR	Brian	Goll	55A
1285	Mr	J W	Joe	Hasnip	P/S
N-M	Mr	E	Edwin	Millar	62C
N-M	Mr	W	William	Minford	60C
N-M	Mr	C	Charles	Oetegenn	64B
N-M	Mr	B	Barrie	Owens	61C
1495	Mr	J C	James (Jim)	Riches	Mil/Staff
777	Mr.	DJ	Donald	Smith	61A
N-M	Mr	P	Peter	Stannett	58B
834	Mr.	RI	Bob	Sutherland	51B
N-M	Mr	R	Robert/Rob	Traynor	60A
N-M	Mr	G	Gerry	Warburton	66C
1342	Mr	R J	Ray	Weaver	63C
810	Mr.	RD	Roy	Williamson	53B

May they rest in peace.

Subscriptions

Cheques sent to me in regard to annual subscriptions may take some time to be debited from members accounts. This is on account of my having to travel to towns other than that which is nearest in order to access Lloyds Bank. I would ask for your forbearance in this matter.

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 788159

Mobile Phone No: ~ +44 (0) 7842555110

Email Address: ~ memsecboba@gmail.com (Please note this address should be used for all Association Membership business)



David Oliver Allsopp, An Appreciation,

My little Welsh pixie, with your droll observations on life and your puckish sense of humour, where do I begin? I recall so much and each time I have to grin. Sharing the same bed space as you in the internment camp, on church parade and hearing you announce that you were Tabernacle Nowith.

Camping beside the Wye, just south of Symonds Yat on land belonging to one of Major Miller's ex-oppos, then going up river and crossing over to the The Saracen's Head for some scrumpy from the bottom of the barrel, the dregs looked like tomato juice, but sure didn't taste like it!!!!!!

The monsoon day out at Porthcawl. Guess who lost his cap badge?

Your tales of freezing cold long waits at night on Crewe Station and making me promise to stick my fingers up at it should I ever route through there. I have kept my promise several times now.

The hilarious stories of your taxi exploits and your skirmishes with the local council. I bet they are mightily relieved now that they need no longer fear you.

The times that you pitched up here during your annual Bisley pilgrimages and the one memorable night, on your way back, when you got stuck in floodwater and had to wade, knee deep, back to your digs.

The extended BOBA week-end when we stayed back an extra day, to make it worth Viv coming down, and that magical meal, upstairs at an open window overlooking the Wye on a warm velvet evening, four ex-internees, you, Viv, Colin & Me, just quietly enjoying a meal and the memories that bound us. So are memories made.

How miffed you were, when we found a pub near Marylebone Station, called 'The Allsop Arms', without the second 'p' as your name is, so you couldn't claim it as yours.

You are now free from the worries and the woes of this old wobbly world, heading off to the celestial parade where Brian, Alf, Dieter, Willie, Chas, Ian, Ivor and others are waiting to greet you.

Ollie, such memories and more, I treasure and cherish, it being both an honour and a privilege to have received your friendship over the years. You may have lacked an inch or two in stature, but to me you were a man that I would ride the river with any day. Sleep well dear friend.

Harry

23234223 David Allsop 55A Group A Company departed on his Final Posting 18/03/2021



A GUIDE TO: PUTTING YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD

SMARTPHONE

LEAVE IT ALONE.
IT DOES IT WITH
MAGIC.



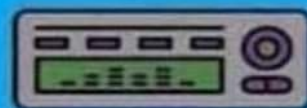
SUNDIAL

MOVE ONE HOUSE
TO THE RIGHT.



COOKER

YOU'LL NEED A
MASTERS IN
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
OR A HAMMER



CAR CLOCK

NOT WORTH IT.
WAIT SIX MONTHS,



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



APPLICATION TO REGISTER WITH BOBA

(PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

Title:Initials:Forename/s:Surname:

Address:

.....Post Code:Tel No:

E-mail Address:Group:Coy:

>>>>>Please read the subscription notes below before completing this form<<<<<

To: BOBA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Please register me as a member of 'BOBA'.

Official use only:

Membership No:

I was an: Apprentice / Military Staff / Civilian Staff

(Please delete as necessary)

METHOD OF PAYMENT

>>>>>Please read the subscription notes below before completing this form<<<<<

I confirm that I have completed a STANDING ORDER FORM for the sum of £10 with an initial payment date of and annually thereafter until further notice.

If you are registered for 'Online Banking' you will be able to set up the Standing Order immediately by using BOBA's bank details (shown on the Standing Order Form), otherwise please take the completed form to your bank.

DATA PROTECTION

I do / do not grant BOBA permission for my contact details to be passed to other ex-Beachley Boys.

Signature:

Date:

Subscription Notes:

- BOBA's financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December.
- The normal due date for subscriptions is the 1st April, however it is realised that new members may wish to join at differing times of the year, therefore the Treasurer is content to accept Standing Orders made payable at other dates.
- When completing the Standing Order Form; in the box marked "Your Payment Reference" please fill in your details in the following format – Surname, Initials, Group (e.g. Branson, R, 46B).

Should you have any difficulties understanding or completing the application form or standing order, or have any questions, please contact the Membership Secretary. Contact details are shown below:

Return to: Membership Secretary – Derek Fox, 51 Church Close, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1JJ
Tel: 01760 788159 Mob: 07842 555110 E-mail: memsecboba@gmail.com



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



PERSONAL DETAILS FORM

The information you provide on this form will be treated with confidence and in accordance with the Data Protection Act, and will not be given or passed to anyone outside of the Association.

Subject to you granting permission, the information given will only be shared with other members of BOBA.

It is important for BOBA to confirm recorded details of your apprentice history, and any permanent staff service. Therefore the committee would appreciate any information you may consider helpful to BOBA to be included.

Any information you complete is voluntary, please ignore any items you do not wish to divulge.

Please ensure that any details you do enter, are accurate and to the best of your knowledge.

THANK YOU.

Official use only:
Membership No:

Personal Details:

Full Name: Army No:

Preferred Salutation: (e.g. Alan, Fred, Mr, Colonel, etc)

Decorations: Date of birth:/...../.....

Apprentice service dates: (month/year) from:/..... to:/.....

Apprentice trade: Apprentice rank:

End of service date:/...../..... Regular service rank:

Regt/Corps: Still serving: Yes / No Working / Retired

Any information you may wish to add with regards to your time at Beachley, if you served on the staff, and dates, your career, your current situation, etc, etc.

.....

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

Beachley Old Boys Association 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

How often do you want payments made?

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

Yes

No

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

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.

Please allow up to three working days for the funds to reach the recipient's account

Recipient's name:

Beachley Old Boys' Association

Recipient's bank & branch name:

Lloyds TSB, CHEPSTOW, 7 Manor Way

Recipient's sort code

3 0 9 1 8 9

Recipient's Account number

0 0 0 9 8 8 5 2

First payment amount
(If different to usual amount)

First payment date
(Month & Year)

0 1 2

Usual amount

£ 1 0

Usual payment amount in words

TEN POUNDS STERLING

Second payment amount
(If different to usual amount)

Second payment date
(Fill in year)

0 1 0 4 2

Until further notice (X)

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

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

Registered in Scotland
No 95237

Signatories to the Banking Codes

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.

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

ID confirmed
(for bank use only)

☐

Your signature

Date

From branch name

Sort Code

Contact name



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

THE HERITAGE CENTRE, BEACHLEY, CHEPSTOW, MON NP16 7YG

Membership Secretary Telephone / E-Mail Derek Fox 01760 788159

51 Church Close Pentney
Kings Lynn Norfolk
PE32 1JJ



07842 555110
memsecboba@gmail.com

Website address:

<http://armyapprenticecollegechepstow.co.uk>

Dear BOBA Member

Subject: NEXT OF KIN (NOK)

This is a particularly difficult subject but one that the committee feels should be addressed. When a BOBA member 'passes away', the executive committee are left with a quandary as to whom to contact in the family. If such a contact is desired, please kindly enter your details in the space below, in doing so the association may be able to offer assistance.

(The Data Protection Act will apply to all details given.) **(PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS)**

NOK Name: NOK Relationship:

NOK Address:

..... Post Code:

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@gmail.com

Tel: +44 (0)1760 788159

Mob: +44 (0)7842 555110

Royal Mail: To the address shown above.

Yours sincerely

Derek Fox
BOBA Membership Secretary

Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

**HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge
(Veterans UK Helpline Application)**☐

First Application

☐Replacement
ApplicationThe Badge was:
Stolen/Broke/Lost☐

War Widow

National Insurance number

Title

Forename

Surname

Name in service if different

Address

Town

County

Country

Postcode

Telephone number

Date of birth

Service
NumberHM Forces Service
Royal Navy/ Army/ Royal Air ForceUnit/ Regt/
Sqn

Period of Service

to

Was your service

☐

Volunteer Reserve

☐

Regular Reserve

Additional Information

Signed

Dated

Email to: DBS-MODMO-VetsBadge@mod.uk**PLEASE RETURN TO:**Defence Business Service
MOD Medal Office
Imjin Barracks
Innsworth
Gloucester GL31HWFree phone Helpline: 0800 169 2277 (UK Only)
+44 1253 866043 (Overseas)Fax: 01452 510871 (UK only)
+44 1452 510871 (Overseas)



You can use this QR Code to access The BOBA/AAC Web Page.



**BOBA/AAC WEBSITE
QR CODE**



BOBA Shop Price List



Lapel Badge - £12.00



BOBA Bow Tie - £8.00



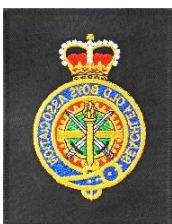
BOBA Tie - £10.00



AAC Plaque - £23.00



BOBA Plaque - £23.00



BOBA Blazer Badge
Embroidered - £12.00



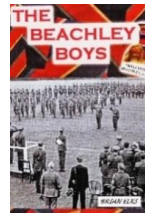
AAS Blazer Badge
Embroidered - £12.00



AAC Blazer Badge
Embroidered - £12.00



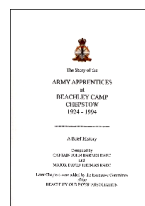
BOBA Blazer Badge
Wire Wound - £15.00



The Beachley Boys Book
£18.00



The Beachley Apprentices Story
1923 - 1994 - £18.00



Army Apprentices at Beachley Camp 1924 -
1994 - £18.00



Come Back Dinky Bumstead - £18.00



AAC Mug - £11.00



BOBA Mug - £11.00



BOBA Sweatshirts Colour: Navy
(Other colours available to order)
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL - £20.00



BOBA Polo Shirts Colour: Navy
(Other colours available to order)
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL - £16.00



BOBA Fleece Colour: Navy
(Other sizes to order: M & XXXL)
Sizes: L, XL & XXL - £45.00



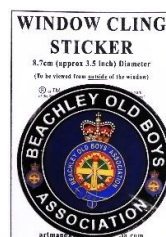
Photographs - £5.00



Prints - £15.00



Coasters - £5.00



Car Window Stickers RE, REME, BOBA - £5.00



Desk Flag - £16.00



Wooden Framed BOBA Badge - £23.00

All shop items are sold with Postage and Package paid but can be purchased less P&P at the BOBA Heritage Centre on the Saturday of the Reunion Weekend or when you visit.



BOBA Shop - Merchandise

The turnover for the year was much reduced because the annual re-union had to be cancelled due to Covid. Fortunately the merchandise forming the stock does not deteriorate over time so we do not have to write-off stock held or have a fire sale and we have no overhead costs to carry.

The financial year closed out and the Hon Treasurer will report the numbers in the annual accounts.

The big event was a decision of the BOBA Executive Committee to move all the shop stock to the Heritage Centre at Beachley Gate as walk in trade from former Apprentices and visitors is a new opportunity for sales.

The relaunch of the Website will have these details and online sales will also be dealt with at the Heritage Centre.

All this makes practical sense to me and I fully support the change. Unfortunately I live in another part of the country so it is right I resign as the Shop Manager. If anyone contacts me from the current details on the website I can process inquiries through the Heritage Centre. The delay for customers is minimal.

Hand over of all the stock was completed on 3rd February 2021.

To all our customers in the year many thanks for your continued interest and support.

Stephen Barker (66C)

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. 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

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 Ex WO2 (AQMS), Lou Walker, REME, 55A Group.

Paper Copy of the Beachley Echoes

If you require a paper copy of the newsletter please drop the Editor a line stating name, group and address. His contact details are above.



from the Fairway : BOBA Golfing Society

2020 BOBA Annual Reunion Golf Competition

If anyone is interested, with so many of us being retired we generally organise (local to Chepstow) a pre-BOBA warm up round on the Thursday afternoon. Just add a note on your golf application form for details.

Alf Chrascina, Golf Organiser. alf.chrascina@gmail.com

**Due to Covid restrictions
The GOLF TOURNAMENT 2020
Was not held.**

Editor's Contact Details ~

***Ray Armstrong
125 Baker Street, Wigan, Greater Manchester , WN3 5HG
Tel: 01942 491140
email ~ r.armstrong@virgin.net***

AGM Agenda

Any point you want raised at the AGM in September please let the BOBA Secretary know as soon as possible.

Gary (Chalky) White
9 Appledore Drive, Allesley Park, Coventry
West Midlands CV5 7PQ
garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk