

O B A N



ARBORFIELD OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ARBORFIELD OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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Vice Presidents - Past Commandants

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Warrant Officer 1(ASM) Dave W Merrick REME (77C)

Mr Peter D Gripton (56B)

Mr Bill E N Pusey (46A)

Committee meetings are held 3-4 times per year. Any member wishing to put forward a motion or item to the Committee for consideration may do so by writing directly to the Honorary Secretary. Additionally, an ad hoc administration committee is convened, usually under the Chairmanship of the College Adjutant and attended by all interested parties, to deal with the details of the reunion weekend.

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Arborfield Old Boys Association Newsletter

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From the Editor

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Acknowledgements. Printed by SERCo Printing Dept, SEAE Arborfield

Issue 15. Published later this year, owing to the later date of the Reunion weekend, this issue has been dedicated to Reunion 98, making it appear almost like a photograph album. This will provide a more comprehensive picture of the reunion weekend for those members who were unable to enjoy the somewhat wet experience this year. The photo captions have been given reference numbers, so that should anyone require copies they are available from Paul Tyrrell (Tel No. 0118 969 0684. (See also *Notices*).

I still have a number of articles in my 'bank' to fill those hungry pages of future OBANs - all will be published in the fullness of time, some in Issue 16 in the new year.

Please continue to write about the past, not necessarily all about the School, but some adult service experiences as well. The 'forties' boys have kept our heads well above water; the fifties and sixties are beginning to contribute, but what about some contributions from the seventies, eighties and even the nineties?

As you will see, I continue to take extracts from **The Craftsman** and **The Army Apprentice** (the current magazine of the School) to try to make OBAN a little less 'enclosed'.

As mentioned at the AGM, OBAN will only survive with your help, so please continue to write me letters on all subjects (not many in this issue), however insignificant you may feel the subject is.

Contributions received for anonymous publication must be supplied with the writer's name and address for reference purposes, otherwise its no go.

If possible, it would be a great help if contributors would send their contributions on disk, preferably Word Perfect 5.1 (DOS version) or MS Word (DOS or Windows version).

If you don't have access to a computer, then of course I will accept clear, hand-written contributions. If your contribution doesn't appear in the next expected issue of OBAN, it will certainly appear in a later issue - don't be disheartened!

As I repeat over and over again, all contributions that I receive will (eventually) be published, subject to editing - it all depends on how the final layout of a particular issue turns out as to which article or letter I select. So please keep 'em coming!

Last date for Issue 16 letters: 24 December 1998

Brian Hornsey (54A)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Leutenant Colonel Jim Mitchell RE

I hope that by now you will have received a copy of the minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting of the Arborfield Old Boys Association and with it, my annual report upon the College and its activities.

Those of you who attended the 35th Reunion Weekend in October will, I am sure, agree with me that it was a resounding success. It was my first Reunion Weekend and I thoroughly enjoyed the whole event. It was a marvellous opportunity to get to know members of the Association and it was a particular pleasure to see the strong Sapper contingent!

Although the wet weather thwarted plans for an outdoor parade, it certainly did not dampen spirits and the re-scheduling of the memorial service and parade indoors to the gymnasium caused remarkably little inconvenience.

The dedication and planting of a memorial tree to Ken Schofield (62C) proved to be an especially moving occasion.

I know the Brigadier Tim Tyler, the Commander of the REME Training Group and Arborfield Garrison, was delighted to participate as the Reviewing Officer and as our guest at dinner. Like me, he was thoroughly impressed by the enthusiasm of all those attending. The organising committee really did an outstanding job in pulling the whole thing together - indeed, they deserve the thanks of the whole Association for their efforts throughout the year.

The benefit to the College of the Association and of the reunion event is, of course, to serve as both a reminder and an example of the wider family of the British Army. For young apprentices, it is a family that will come to include chums, units, Corps and many Service charities and associations, including the AOBA. It is vital that apprentices gain a feel for this wider family during their short time at the College, since it underpins so much of the Army ethos.

Sadly, of course, there are few apprentices in the College during the Reunion Weekend to witness events and we miss an opportunity: there is simply not enough accommodation for the reunion to be held during term time. There are, however, other opportunities for the Old Boys to visit the College and meet apprentices.

The College hosts regular visits by groups of parents in advance of their sons and daughters joining the College.

The visit programme includes briefings on College activities and a tour of Rowcroft Barracks. There is an opportunity for visitors to join apprentices at lunch for a chat.

Subject to the availability of spare places, if you as an AOBA member would like to join in with these visits to see College daily life, to chat with both parents of future apprentices and with serving apprentices, then we should be delighted to see you. The next round of such visits will take place in March and April 1999.

Should you be interested, please telephone or write to Major (Retd) Alan Gower at the College for further details. His telephone number is (0118) 976 3402.

Hopefully, we can give members a good day out and at the same time reinforce some of the training of our apprentices!

Lt Col Jim Mitchell RE

**From the Honorary Secretary
Major Bob Hambly (64A)**

As ever I am writing under dire threats or promises from the Editor! Deadlines are deadlines and when they are moved, life gets interesting!

Thank you all for the many letters of appreciation about the Reunion Weekend - my father used to say, "If you don't tell them they won't know." So now I know and many thanks to those who wrote or telephoned. Hopefully the weekend went as hoped for the remainder of you.

I know it's invidious to single out people for praise, but I would like to thank especially RSM WO1 Rooney - as one would expect from a Welsh Guardsman he had all the angles covered. What a player!

As a reminder I now repeat my announcement about the Essay Competition as an encouragement to reluctant scribes!

Essay Competition. The Management Committee have decided to organise an annual Old Boys' Essay Competition; the prize will be either £50.00 cash or the equivalent amount in expenses towards attending the annual AOBA Reunion. The topic for the inaugural competition will be 'Memories - The Army Apprentice'. Essays are to be between 1000 and 3000 words, but if a particularly well written essay should fall outside the guide lines, then it will still be considered. We would like entries to be as amusing as possible - no names will be changed to protect the guilty (presumed innocent). It is the intention of the Committee to aim the competition at specific groups of intake years (for example, the 60s, but on our first attempt it will be an all comers competition. The aim of the Committee is to bring alive those amusing anecdotal 'apprentice' incidents that are often talked about between apprentices and *ex-apprentii* and have them recorded for posterity, thus providing the Corps archives with a fund of information and detail about life in the School or College throughout its history, written by the people who experienced it first hand. You do not have to be a member of the AOBA to compete - to qualify, all you need is to have gone through one of the many forms of Apprenticeship at either Arborfield, Jersey or Carlisle. The winning entry will be the first to be published in OBAN, followed by all other entries, eventually.

The panel of judges is: Senior Membership Representative - Bill Pusey (46A), former Honorary Secretary - Lt Col (Retd) Larry Le Var (47A - he likes a good read), and current Honorary Secretary - Major Bob Hambly (64A). The judges' decision is final. We cannot undertake to return original manuscripts unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed with your entry.

**From the Membership Secretary
Col (Retd) Peter Gibson**

I thoroughly enjoyed the Reunion Weekend and I hope everyone else who was able to attend enjoyed it as well.

Those of you who managed to find your way into the AGM will know that we decided to go ahead with a Membership Directory.

I have started work already, but you will not be able to receive the fruits of my labours until each of you have signed your agreement to having your name, address and other details published. Many have already signed the necessary 'release'. If you have not yet signed, you will find a form with this edition of OBAN. Please complete it and send it back to me as soon as you can.

I want to take this opportunity to apologise to many of those who write to me and then have to wait so long for a reply.

Like most members of your Committee I am still holding down a job. All the membership details are stored on one of my computers at work and I regularly find that I cannot deal with AOBA business for days on end. When life has become really hectic as it has during the last year, I have been unable to look at Association business for two or three weeks. It then takes a month or two to recover. If you do write to me, start to worry if you have not received a reply after 6 weeks. When things are going well, though, you can expect to hear from me within a week.

As ever, I finish with the same two points:

Wherever possible, pay your subs by standing order. I do not have the time to chase you if you forget to pay. If you pay twice - and a number of you do - the second payment will become a donation.

When you move house, please, please send one of the Change of Address postcards to me.

Happy Christmas to you all!

Peter Gibson

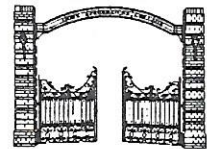
Enough from me, time is as ever, passing swiftly. Remember, if you all recruited an eligible ex-boy to join we could double our membership. Happy Christmas to you all!

Bob Hambly (64A)



REUNION 98

As recalled by Ray Derrick (48B)



A few days before the 1998 AOBA Reunion the weather forecasters were predicting weather most foul for that most important weekend. Particularly concerned were the attending members of intakes 48A and 48B - inclement weather could ruin the prospect of a good 50th group photograph.

Why, when 'they' so often get the resultant weather wrong did they choose our weekend to get there calculations so right? Even the motoring agencies warned that a combination of exceptional wind strength and rainfall, major motorway works and a massive exodus of half term holiday traffic would create gridlock in the very area to which our Old Boys would be heading.

Three of the 50th anniversary Old Boys took the foregoing dour weather very seriously and not wishing to miss even one minute of their once in a life time weekend set off from home very early only to find that the gridlock did not manifest itself. As a consequence, arrival times were rather early. An ex-boy with time on his hands can be a dangerous animal, but a pack of three! In no time at all their sensitive nostrils picked up a scent of merry making with a tint of alcohol thrown in. Headlong and like hunting hounds, Stan Guscini, Joe Sobolewski and Bernard Gardner followed the scent and were soon baying outside the Corporals' Mess. In no time they were welcomed inside and plied with sustenance. Joe was even kissed and cuddled by a lady reveller (in a way one would treat one's grandfather though). They emerged much later brim full.

The weekend was almost ruined for me; a shattering blow to my morale befell me. One knows that initially to take the King's Shilling one just has to volunteer, but from then on one is on guard constantly against the 'can anyone ride a bicycle' ploy. I was quietly enjoying a drink in the Sergeants' Mess with some of the 50th veterans when a voice from behind enquired, "Anyone from '48 here?" Instantly and without looking round I put up my hand. I shall never forget the expression on the face of Ernie Tozer (48A) sitting opposite me. Open mouthed with a glazed stare those blue eyes fixed upon me registering utter amazement at my response to the question. And yet, the expression seemed to have a latent sign of pleasure within it at the predicament into which I had put myself.

The questioner, Brian Hornsey, explained that it was traditional for a member of the 50th anniversary contingent to write a report for the OBAN covering the weekend reunion. Immediately all the other assembled contenders 'put the boot in' amid shouts of "I nominate Ray Derrick" and "I second him". These are my friends I thought to myself and feeling at a sudden low ebb, I succumbed. So here I am. I

am from the west country and we normally communicate by means of a few grunts laced with a bit of tacit understanding. The written word is for the likes of Londoners.

The introduction of the buffet supper in the sergeants mess on the Friday night was a great success. Instead of wasting valuable time by leaving the College in search of an evening meal we were all able to maximise on our time together. Long may the supper party prevail, I say.

Snoring and grunting came to an abrupt end on Saturday morning when at the unearthly hour of 0745 hrs reveille was sounded on a bugle. Old sweats were soon standing by their beds looking rather bemused. One adventurous member parted the curtains and reported torrential rain which looked set for the day. Absolutely right. A quick dash through the driving rain to the Regimental Restaurant to partake of a truly hearty breakfast trustingly laid out in a self-serve style and one's physical recovery was under way. I actually (inadvertently, of course) 'gypped' the queue. Instead of the expected rebuke, the gypped member stepped back with a "Dear sir, but of course". My action would have caused an intake war 50 years ago! After a few coffees to work off the effect of the previous evening's imbibing session and suitably recovered it was time to 'bull up' for the reunion parade.

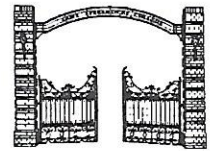
The reunion Drum Head Service was held in the gymnasium owing to the wet weather. Those of us who would normally have taken part in the traditional march past got fell in behind Colonel Brian Hutchins, to be inspected by the reviewing officer Brigadier Tim Tyler, Commander Arborfield Garrison and REME Training Group. The Brig was escorted by Lt Colonel Jim Mitchell RE, Commanding Officer of the College. The Brig had time to speak to very nearly every Old Boy on parade owing to the fact that none of the programme time would be taken up by the usual march past. The sounds accompanying aching bones and muscles were pleasantly nullified by the excellent music played by the REME band which also played the hymn music for the service conducted by the Chaplain, the Rev Tony Coslett.

The reunion photograph session did not have the usual disciplined posing imposed by the RSM and his staff helped by the strictures of the tiered seating structure on the parade ground. As a result, the usual gathering of the 50th top table Old Boys was not assembled for the traditional photograph. However this was rectified after the reunion dinner; the resultant prints will not appear as sober an affair as one would normally expect. (See photo 79 on Page 15 - Ed).

After being dismissed from the parade, a mass exodus moved speedily towards the Sergeants Mess in an urgent



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effort to kick start the economy by passing money over the bar. While Old Boys renewed friendships and swapped memories an excellent buffet lunch was provided, cunningly produced to maximise the 'blotting paper effect' of the cuisine. Well, that is how I wanted to view it - it did the trick!

The remembrance event on the anniversary of the death of Ken Scofield (62C) to plant trees in the Memorial Garden area was held in the Sergeants' Mess because the wet weather continued to prevail. Ken's widow and family were in attendance and his brother paid a very touching tribute to Ken. During the service one could feel the intense sympathetic emotion towards the family from the assembled Old Boys, many of whom were moved to tears. The service illustrated that Ken was also a member of a greater family represented by the AOBA. The tree propagated by Ken himself was to be planted later close to the Memorial Garden.

An afternoon tea of fresh cream 'wads' was soon fortifying the Old Boys in readiness for the taxing agenda of the AGM held in the College Lecture Hall and presided over by, for the first time, Lt Col Jim Mitchell RE. The accountant's jargon was dumbed down because it became evident that those members positioned in the upper environs of the auditorium were suffering from excess heat and lack of oxygen to the brain. A few up there found it difficult to absorb the proposals. Chaps, why not take an evening course in simple accountancy at your local college, then come back next year with your knowledge and bang the newly painted drum?

After a brief snooze it was time to prepare for the 35th reunion dinner held in the Regimental Restaurant. Catering staff and apprentices had worked very hard for most of the day to transform the restaurant into a very acceptable banqueting suite. Their efforts were very much appreciated by all.

The chief guest was Brigadier Tim Tyler who was escorted to the table by the College Commanding Officer to the stirring music played by Craftsman Wylie, the piper for the evening. The REME band played throughout the dinner to delight everyone. Those who worked so very hard to produce the fayre excelled. The Beef Wellington was very much enjoyed as everyone agreed. I guess the 'Spotted Richard' dessert was so named with reference to the Padre who was a guest on our top table.

I was seated next to John Porch (48A) on the top table. Although we were both of the same intake and indeed the same Company (A) we could not remember one another. We

were probing and agreeing on many memories and recalling many names. Then John suddenly said, "Do you remember the javelin incident?" Well, I did. I was standing next to the boy who launched it. "That was me", said John. On the occasion of this incident a number of boys were put through their paces performing field events on the sports field adjacent to the Camp Hall. John had produced a tremendous throw and the PTI recording the distances soon realised that he was standing in range. The PTI rapidly took off from the spot, looking over his shoulder and running away in an arc. Unbelievably, the javelin followed him and struck him in the buttocks. Within minutes John had to throw the discus and incredibly hit another PTI adjudicator. In retrospect, John had to keep a low profile from then on; perhaps that is why I do not remember him.

Sunday morning produced brilliant autumn sunshine, wasted in the circumstances. Old Boys were to be seen folding their blankets, a sure sign that the weekend was almost over. A good turn out followed the Reunion Church Service which was held in, what I am told, a former blanket store. The store had been converted into the Bayley Hardy Memorial Chapel to become the spiritual centre of the College. The Chapel also doubles as a Chaplain's classroom and a quiet retreat for staff and apprentices. A prayer board has been set up so that anyone can leave a message for prayer to be offered.

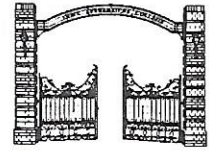
The Padre explained to the congregation how the name of the chapel came about. Theodore Bayley Hardy VC, DSO, MC was a padre in the front line during the first world war. He showed great courage in selflessly going into no-mans land, unarmed, to comfort the dying and recover the wounded. The Padre has a book on the life of Theodore Bayley Hardy, copies of which can be purchased from him.

The lesson from the Old Testament was read by an Old Boy who was first to arrive at the Chapel and was awarded the honour. The lesson from the New testament was read by the College Commanding Officer. During the service, the Padre asked the congregation to remember those no longer with us. My thoughts turned to the memory of my B6 room mate of two and a half years - Michael Toms (48B). I learned that he had passed away, listed in OBAN Issue 14.

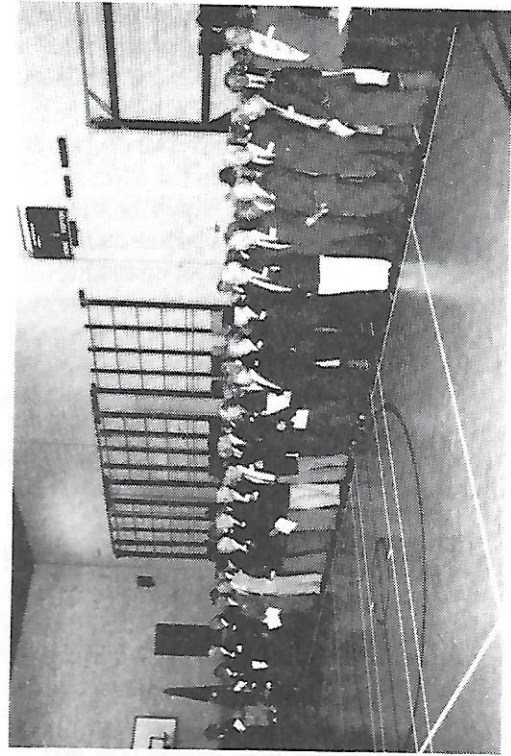
After celebrating the 50th anniversary with the thin line of 48A and 48B Old Boys I am looking forward to when I am 100 years old and if I can still ride a bicycle I may volunteer to take the salute of the AOBA Reunion of 2033 AD. In the meantime, I shall evoke memories by watching my newly processed video tape 'Army Apprentice'.



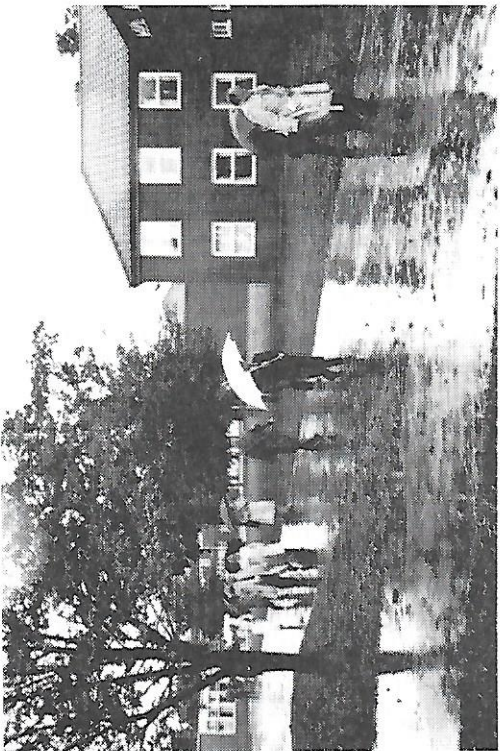
REUNION 98



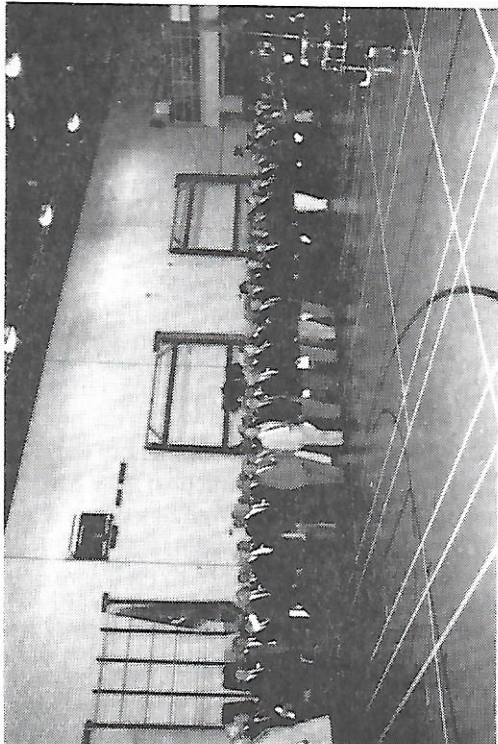
We all assembled in College Gym - The Audience.....(4)



.....on parade. (2)



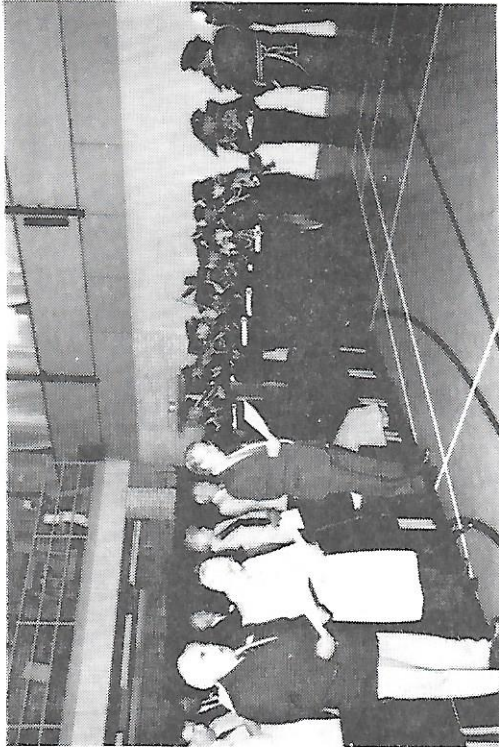
The wet weather programme could not be avoided.....(1)



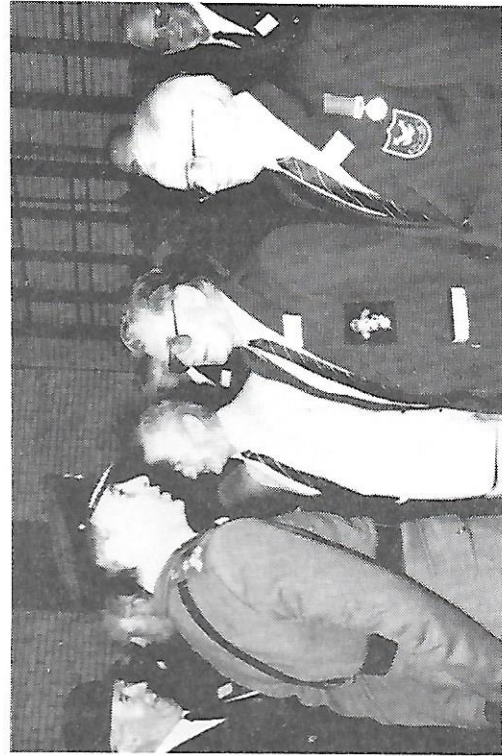
.....and those.....(6)



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.....with Hymns accompanied by the REME Band. (11)



Brigadier Tim Tyler was the Inspecting Officer.....(20)



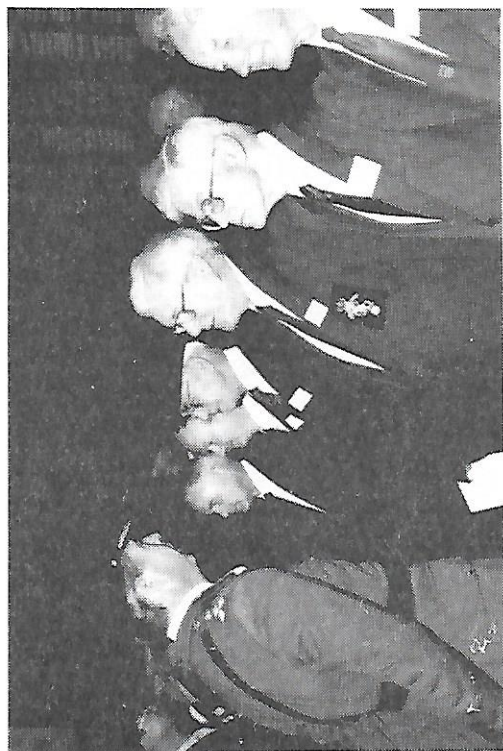
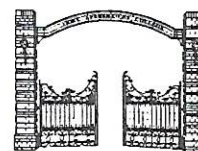
The Association Chaplain lead the Drum Head Service.....(9)



Trevor Guest received the AOBA Standard.....(16)



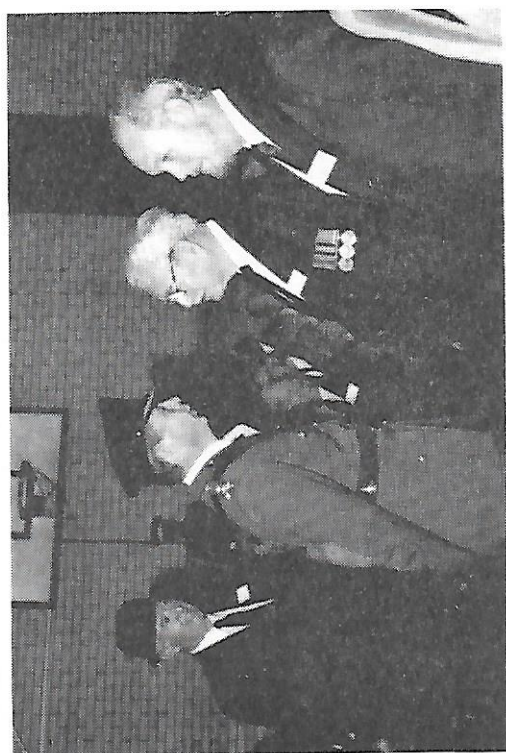
REUNION 98



.....in speaking to.....(26)



.....whatever the intake!.....(31)



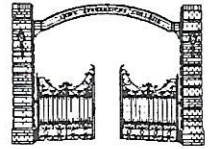
...and he took great interest.....(18)



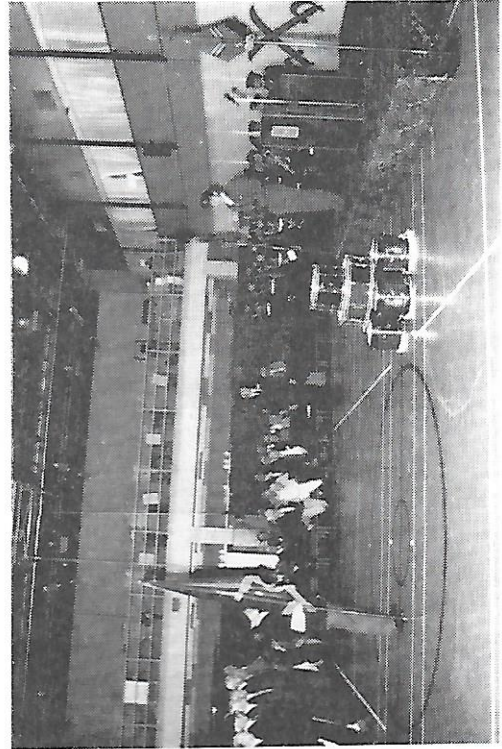
.....every member.....(28)



REUNION 98



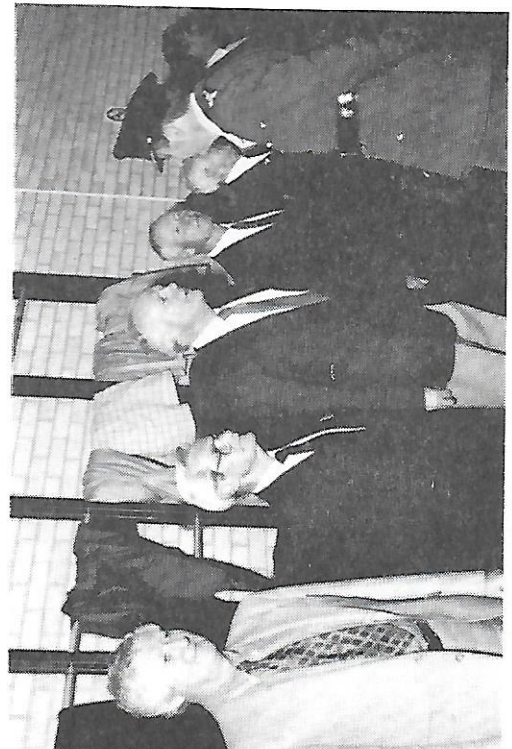
.....on parade..... "Pardon Sir?"(32)



The Brigadier then addressed.....(52)



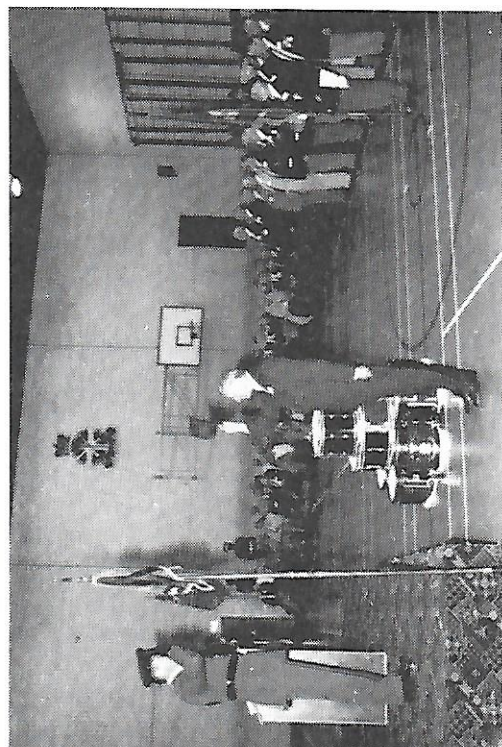
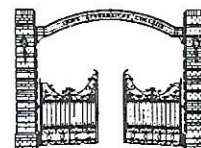
.....who bravely presented themselves.....(33)



.....until the last 'cheeky' man (He knows why).(50)



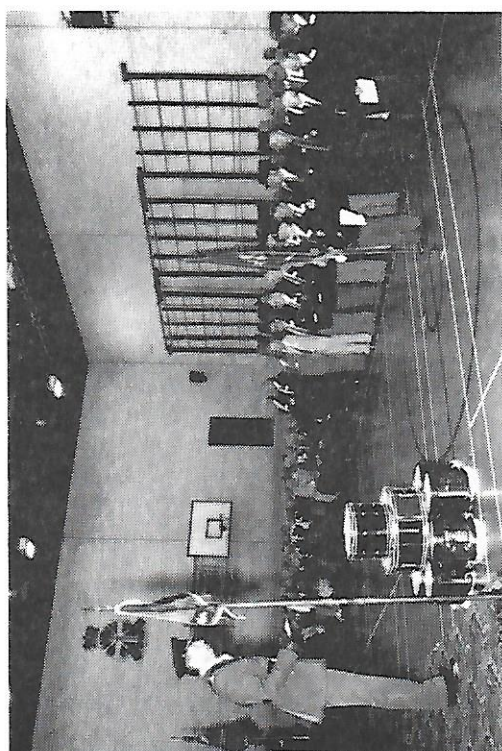
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...before permission was granted to dismiss the parade. (54)



Sgts' Mess: The Brigadier tries to justify his lunch... (62)



.....the Association.....(53)



Sgts' Mess: The Royal Engineers with their 'C.O.'....(61)



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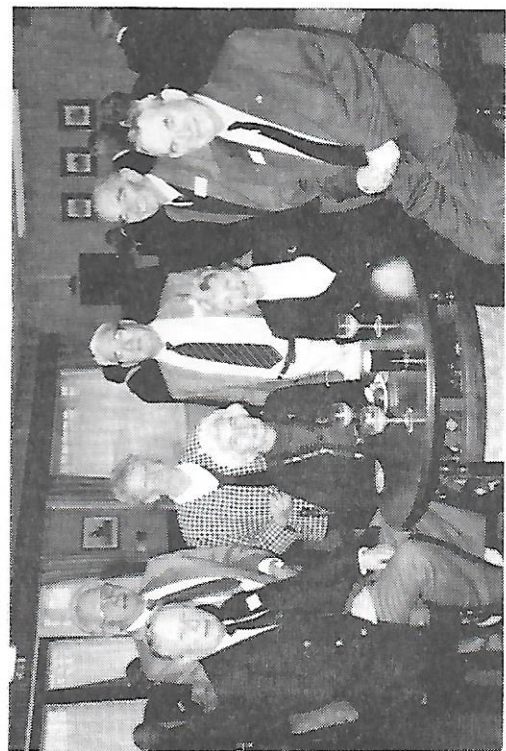
Sgts' Mess: Intake 50B again!..... (64)



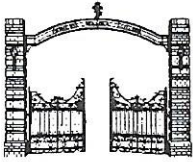
Sgts' Mess: Intake 45A....(66)



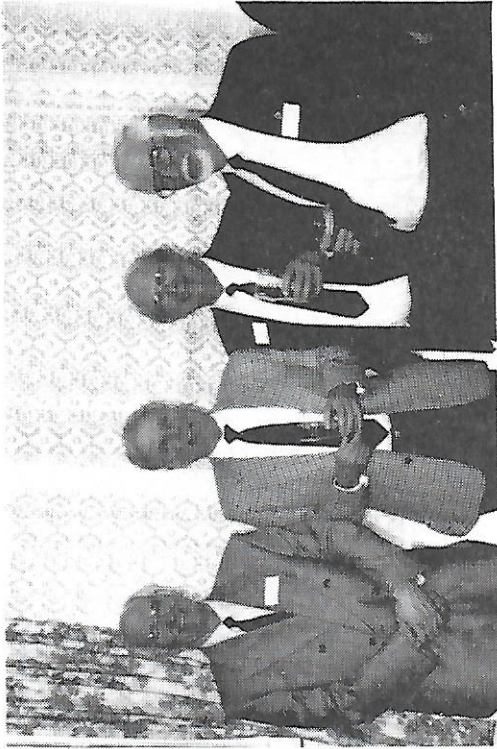
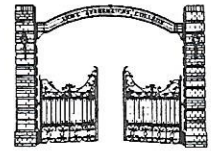
Sgts' Mess: Intake 50B(63)



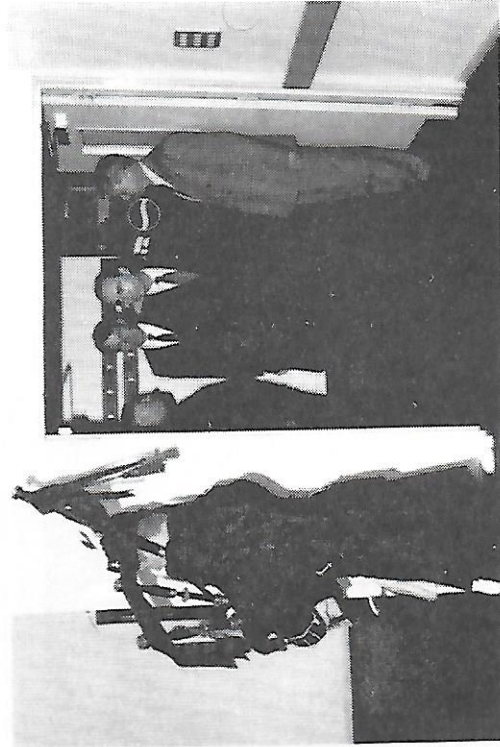
Sgts' Mess: Intake 38B with loyal ladies.....(65)



REUNION 98



Sgts' Mess: Alan Morton and Pals.....(68)



And so to dinner: The piper (Cfn Wylie) leads the way...(70)



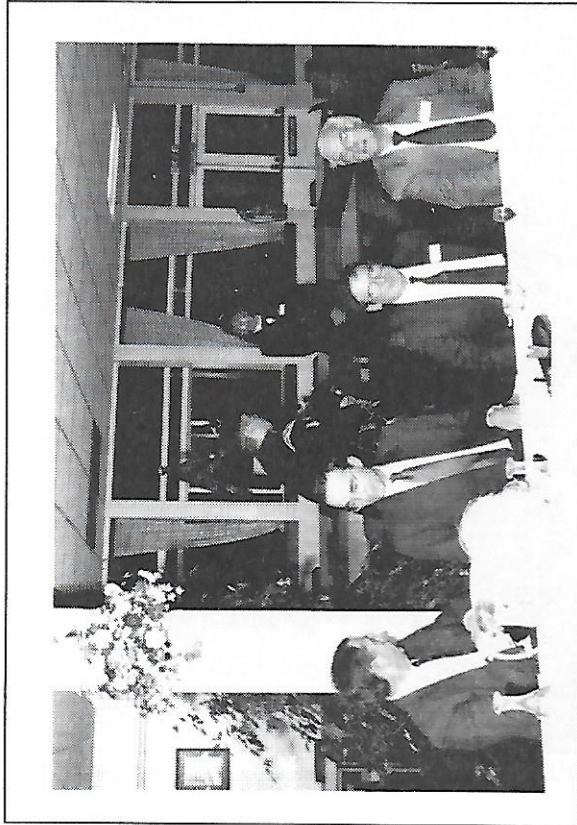
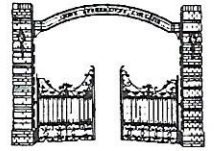
Sgts' Mess: The Brigadier still earning his lunch.....(67)



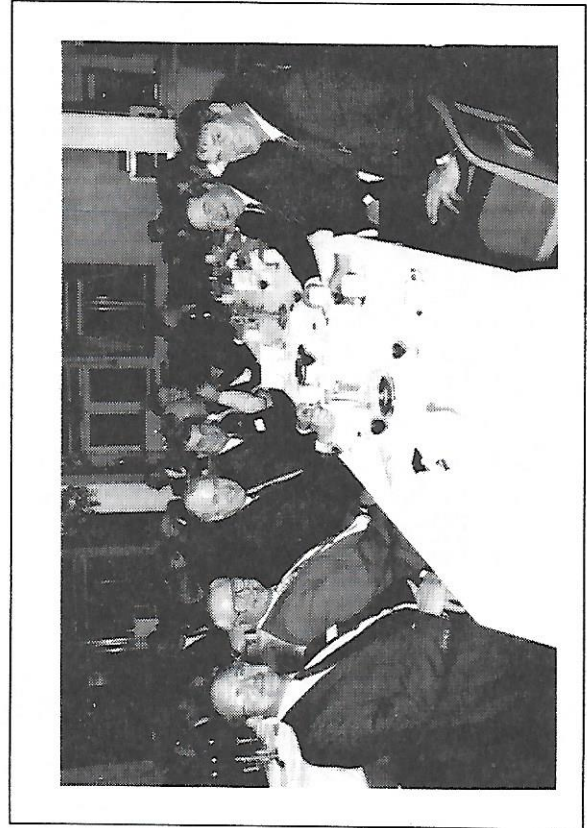
Sgts' Mess: Intake 54A (mostly) with loyal lady.....(69)



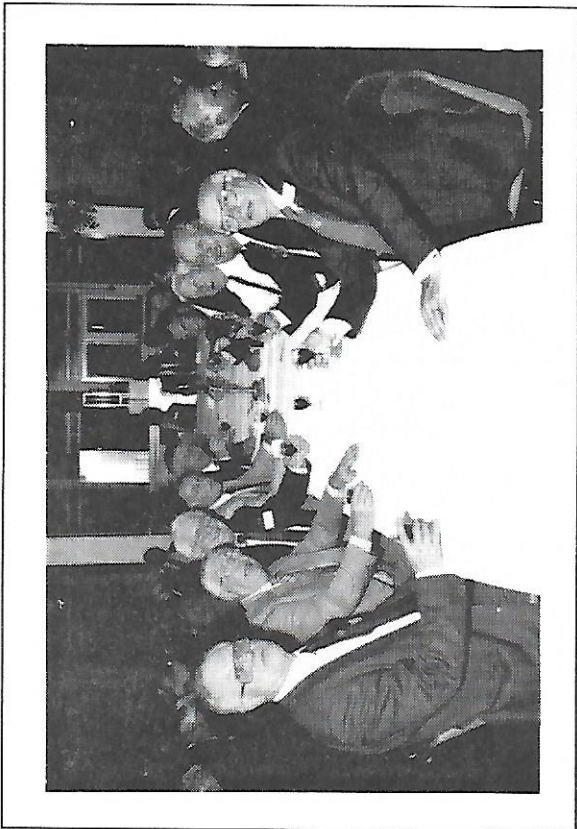
REUNION 98



The Dinner: The Piper entertains.....(72)



The Dinner: Spot the Old Boy from Holland.....(74)



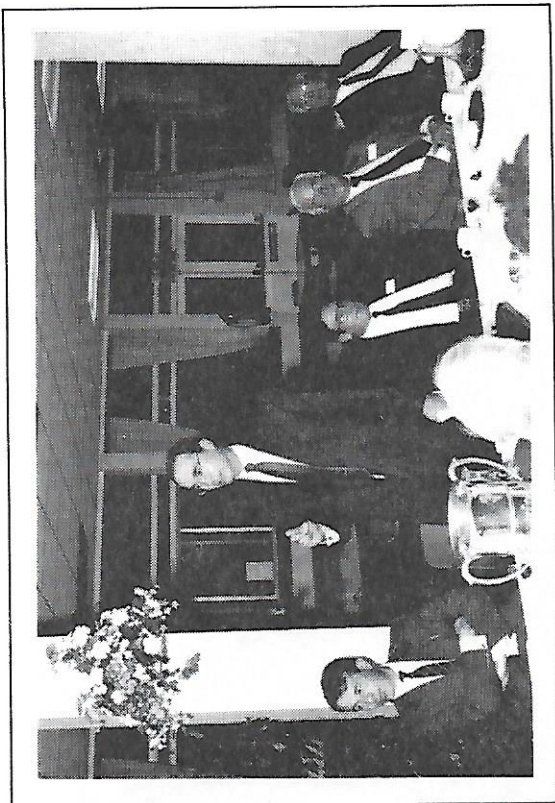
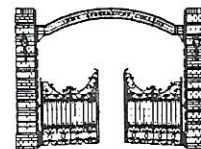
The Dinner: A satisfied group of 58ers.....(71)



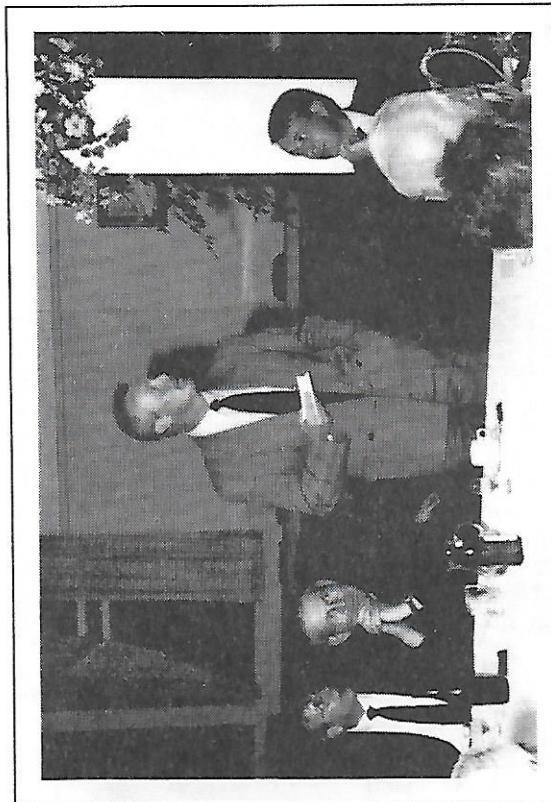
The Dinner: Intake 50B at Table.....(73)



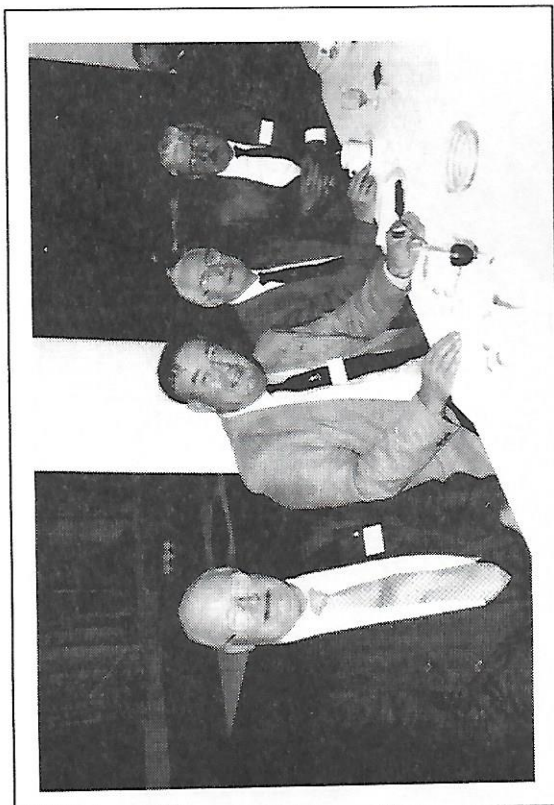
REUNION 98



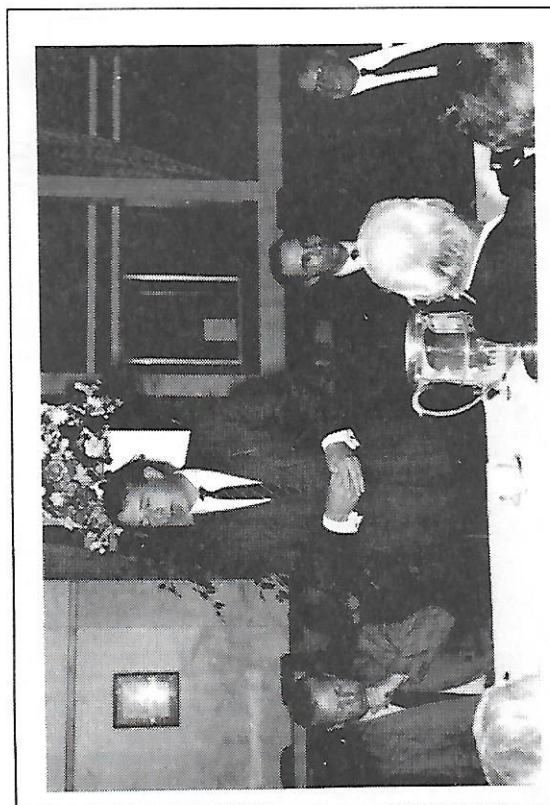
The Dinner: The Commanding Officer gives his speech.....(76)



The Dinner:and finally the RSM!.....(78)



The Dinner: Could this be Intake 38B?.....(75)



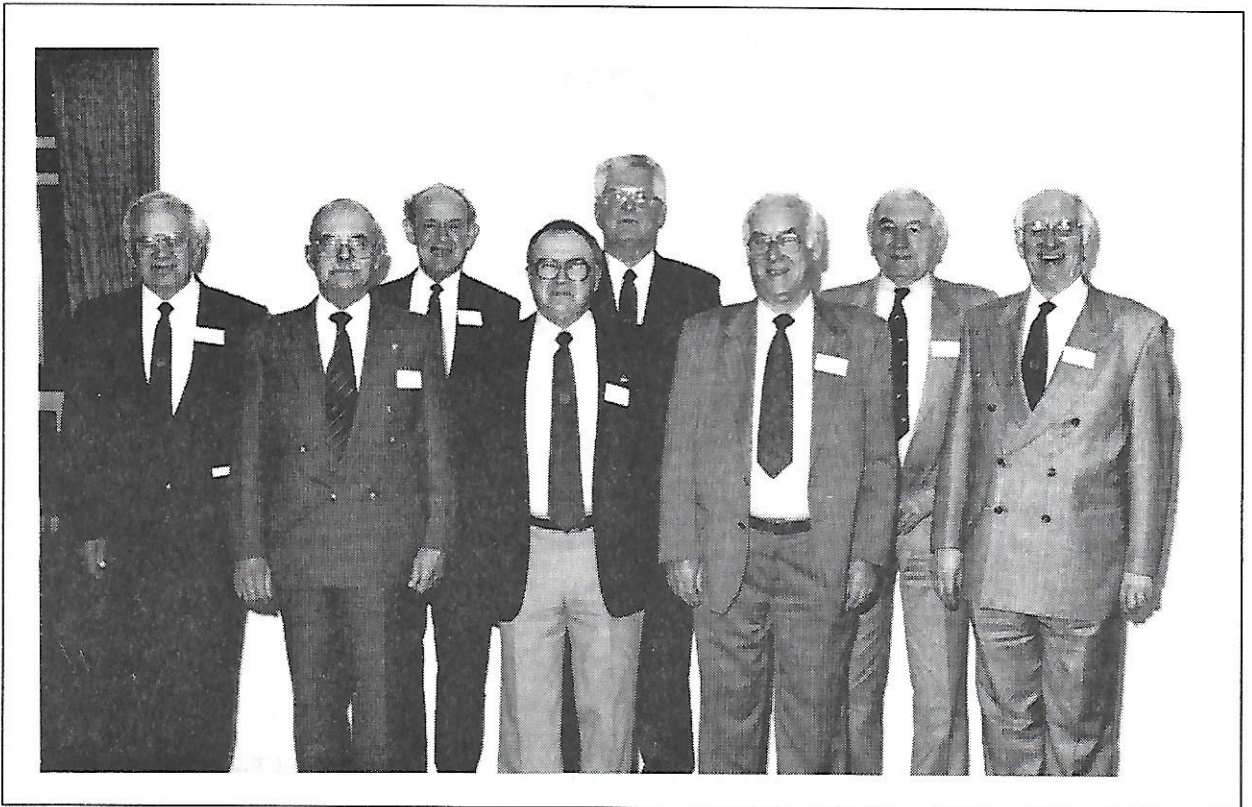
The Dinner:followed by Brigadier Tim Tyler...(77)



REUNION 98



Intakes 58A/B - 40th Anniversary Group Photograph. (59)

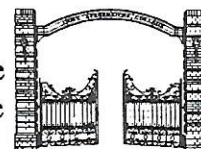


Intakes 48A/B - 50th Anniversary Group Photograph. (79)

DRUM HEAD SERVICE



The Drum Head Service, the service sheets of which are reproduced below, was held in the Gymnasium, along with the parade, owing to the very wet weather prevailing on Saturday.



ARBORFIELD OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

DRUM HEAD SERVICE

SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 1998

Association Chaplain

The Opening Sentence: "Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so it will be for those who have died: God will bring them to life with Jesus."

HYMN

The Lord's my Shepherd,
I'll not wand,
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

Yea, though I walk
in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My soul He doth restoreth again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

My table Thou has furnished
In the preence of my foes:
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Padre: Let us be calling to mind those of our Comrades of the Arborfield Old Boys who are no longer with us in this life but walking in glory in the new life.

Merciful God
whose son Jesus Christ is the resurrection
and the life of the faithful:
raise us from the death of Sin
to the life of righteousness,
that at the last, we with all our departed Comrades,
may come to your eternal joy.

All. Amen.

ARBORFIELD OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION COLLECT

O God our Father,
We pray for all who have served their country'
Remembering especially the families of the Arborfield Old Boys' Association.
Rekindle our courage to face the future as we did in our youth.
Strengthen our will to seize the moment as we did in the past.
Enliven our minds to the needs of others as loyalty and discipline taught us.

Amen.

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

ALL STANDING: They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.

ALL: We will remember them.

LAST POST

SILENCE

REVEILLE

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

Chaplain:

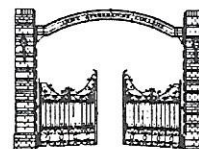
1. A prayer for the Queen
2. A prayer for the Forces of the Queen
3. A prayer for Peace
4. A prayer for the families of the Arborfield Old Boys' Association

Association Chaplain:

The Lords Prayer
The Blessing



REUNION 98

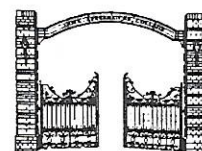


ATTENDEES

Jim Silby (Bramley) (38)	Larry Ward (42C)	Norman Wright (46A)
Ivor Pale (Bramley) (38)	John Sands (42C)	Goerge Harold (46A)
Archie Ludford (Jersey) (38)	Jim MacDonald (43A)	Roger Millard (46A)
Walter McMormick (38B)	Tom Guy (43A)	Tony Head (46A)
Martin Dudley (Hilsea) (38C)	Bill Page (43A)	Peter Horwood (46A)
	Norman Donnithorne (43A)	David Panter (46A)
Bill Smith (39A)	Stan Bates (43A)	Phil Christie (46A)
John Moir (39A)	John Horood (43B)	Len Edgecock (46A)
Steve Williamson (39A)	Douglas Boucher (43B)	Bill Pusey (46A)
'Spanky' Roberts (Hilsea) (39B)	Jess Pye (43C)	Mike Parsons (46B)
Arthur Sainsbury (39B)	Bob Davidson (43C)	Frank Hodson (46B)
Gerry Pursglove (39B)	Trevor O'Callaghan (43C)	John Smithson (46B)
John Packman (39B)		Neville Kay (46B)
'Tuck' Tucker (39B)	Rod Crowder (44A)	Harvey Liddel (46B)
Wally Footner (39B)	Colin Williams (44A)	Bob McGrillen (46B)
Ray Blackman (39B)	Ken Jenner (44A)	George Marshall (46B)
Peter Styles (39B)	Alex Bax (44A)	Jim Baker (46B)
Gerry Cross (39B)	Peter Caine (44A)	'Eddie' Edwards (46B)
John Wintle (39C)	Pete Crowson (44A)	
Keith Worboys (39C)	Leonard Poulton (44A)	Guy Corduex (47A)
Les Dangerfield (39C)	Peter Shinn (44A)	Larry Le Var (47A)
	John Maddox (44B)	Tony Hoare (47B)
Vince Coultas (41A)	David Ferns (44B)	Joseph Drew (47B)
Roy Miller (41A)	Bill Tate (44B)	Roger Carew (47C)
Bill Wenborn (41B)	Dave Higgs (44B)	
George Cameron (41C)	Vic Tivy (44B)	George Byrne (48A)
	Bill Baker (44B)	Donald Head (48A)
Peter Baldwin (42A)	George Oliver (45A)	Stan Winter (48A)
Kieth Hadaway (42A)	Eddie Johnston (45A)	Bernard Gardner (48A)
Jim Hutchinson (42A)	Dennis Adams (45A)	Ernie Tozer (48A)
Arthur Tomlinson (42A)	Eddie Broomsfield (45A)	Frank Conroy (48A)
Alan Winchester (42A)	Kieth Evans (45A)	Joe Sobolewski (48A)
Paul Wilson (42A)	John Bradshaw (45A)	Ray Derrick (48B)
Bill Kehoe (42B)	Don Hipkin (45A)	John Porch (48B)
Lawrence Nixon (42B)	Derek Williams (45A)	Stanislaw Guscin (48B)
Tony Parker (42B)	Don Walker (45A)	
Alan Mardon-Orcard (42B)	Frank Ward (45A)	Bernard Shrubsole (49A)
Bryan Adams (42C)	Doug Kew (45A)	Pete Henry (49B)
Ronald Cross (42C)	Tim Timmins (45A)	Richard Wright (49B)
Mike Funnell (42C)	Frank Fendick (45A)	
Kenneth Giles (42C)	Dave Richards (45A)	Pat Hennessy (50B)
Ivan Spearman (42C)	'Mac' McNally (45A)	Clem Clements (50B)
Mick Larby (42C)	John Dewar (45A)	John Walker (50B)
Mike Allcock (42C)	Frank Sands (45B)	Nicholas Webber (50B)
Len Bentley (42C)		Tom Lennox (50B)
'Taff' Pritchard (42C)		Mike Webb-Morris (50B)
		Peter Harrison (50B)



REUNION 98



Alan Webb (51B)	Paul Wiggins (58A)	Dave Brock (65B)
Graham Goodwin (51B)	Patrick Gutteridge (58A)	
Alan Morton (51B)	John Kelsey (58A)	David Vaughan (Carlisle) (68A)
Bob Barwick (51B)	Paul Hudson (58A)	
Peter Smith (51B)	Dave Wayland (58A)	Dave Surtees (76C)
	Ken Anderson (58A)	
Ken Byford (52A)	Alan Maloney (58B)	Barry Keast (PS)
John Bodle (52A)	Colin Chance (58B)	Neville Gibson (PS)
Eddie Hinds (52A)		Peter Gibson (PS)
'Eggy' Egleton (52B)	Alan Harris (59C)	'Curly' Hunt (PS)
Kaye Gilpin (52B)		Roy Mathews (PS)
	Trevor Guest (60A)	Joe Surtees (PS)
Aubrey Gardner (53A)	Barrie King (60A)	Roly Dodd (PS)
Dennis Elshaw (53B)	'Jock' Reilly (60A)	Graeme Duncanson (PS)
Arthur Hodgkins (53B)	Garry Middleton (60A)	
Mick Harold (53B)	Andrew Gordon (60A)	
	Mike Davis (60B)	
Dick Wales (54A)	Barry Hill (60C)	
'Ben' Hebden (54A)		APOLOGIES
'Hornblower' Hornsey (54A)	Jim James (61B)	Ken Green (37)
John Rainey (54A)	Raymond Jordan (61B)	Fred Wood (37B)
'Sexy' Trill (54A)	Bill Cleasby (61C)	Peter Spargo (39A)
'Slim' Stone (54A)		Bob Dougal (39A)
John Smith (54B)	Geoff Bowring (62B)	Bert Kelly (39A)
Mike Roberts (54B)	Geoff Currie (62B)	W A Gibson (39B)
	Simon Button (62C)	Fred Stockey (39B)
John Lee (55A)	Terry O'Sullivan (62C)	
Sam Beatson (55B)	John Beuzeval (Carlisle) (62C)	Peter Edwards (42A)
Ken Smith (55B)		Alan Loftus (42A)
John Howes (55B)	Geoff Gendall (63A)	Frank Penfold (42C)
Ray Howarth (55B)	Roy Robson (63B)	Frank Frazer (42C)
John Reynolds (55B)	Dick Mussell (63C)	Norman Dalhousie (43A)
Geoff Knox (55B)		George Peers (44A)
Peter Gibby (55B)	Bob Hambly (64A)	Duncan McKay (44A)
John Fitzpatrick (55B)	Geoffrey Hatt (64A)	Michael McMomrie (46A)
	Bob Castell (64A)	Larry Le Var (47A)
'Scouse' Gripton (56B)	Jeff Bendall (64A)	John Northam (47A)
Russell Dodds (56B)	Tony House (64A)	
John Houghton (56B)	Dave Grant (64A)	Charley Ayre (50B)
	Robin Cooper (64B)	Brian 'Lex' Barker (54B)
Jim Gardner (57A)	Eric Senior (64C)	
Roger Traves (57A)		SSgt Jonathan Brow (83C)
Derek Wheatland (57B)	David Schofield (65A)	
Peter Church (57B)	David Read (65A)	Victor Brooke (PS)
	Duncan Mason (65A)	Joe Kinson (PS)
Charles Hollingsworth (58A)	Bill Surtees (65B)	Hugh McCutcheon (PS)

MY RESONANT THEORY OF LOVE By Frank Fendick (Formerly, Hill 45A)

It is because Telemechs (*and Radar Mechs? - Ed*) understand the following Resonance Theory that they make the best lovers! Study it hard and you too may win the lottery of love. What are the conditions for two people to fall in love? Their loving capacities (LC) must be equal. How do I know? It is quite easily proved using the theory of the electrical resonant circuit. If we equate electrical charge with sexual attractiveness, and electrical potential (energy/charge) with sexual potential, we are led to the conclusion that a resonant response in a person is only produced by a person having the same product of L and C as that person, where,

L is a measure of the sexual response of the person to a vibrating sexual charge, and C is the capacity of the person measured as a ratio of their sexual attraction to the energy required to produce that sexual attraction.

The resonant frequency of an electrical circuit is given by $f = K \div (\text{squareroot of } LC)$, where, K is a constant, L is the inductance of the body and C is its capacitance.

In electrical terms the capacitance of a body is a measure of how much charge will be held by the body when some action causes an electrical potential (energy/charge) to be applied to it. The capacitance of a body depends on its physical dimensions and on the quality of the material contained in the body. The smoother the surface of the body the longer it can hold its charge.

In sexual terms the capacitance of a body is a measure of how sexually attractive it becomes when some action causes a sexual potential (energy per unit sex attraction) to be applied to it. The capacitance of the body will depend on its physical dimensions and on the quality of the personality contained in the body. The smoother the surface of the body the longer it can hold its sexual attractiveness.

In electrical terms, the inductance of a body is a measure of the ratio of the electrical potential (energy/charge) produced by the body, to the change in the rate of decline of charge required to produce the electrical energy. The inductance is proportional to the cross-sectional area of the body, to the material it contains, and to the number of times the charge encircles the body per unit length per unit time, as well as to the total number of times the charge encircles the body per unit time.

In sexual terms the inductance of a body is a measure of the ratio of the sexual potential (energy per unit of sexual attraction) produced by the body, to the change in the rate of decline of sexual attractiveness required to produce the sexual energy. The inductance is proportional to the cross-sectional area of the body, to the personality it contains, and to the number of times the sexual feeling encircles the body per unit length per unit time, as well as to the total

number of times the sexual feeling encircles the body per unit time. Thus a particular person will have a capacity (C) to be sexually attractive to others as well as the ability to be induced (L) with a feeling of sexual attraction for others.

The larger both the capacitance and the inductance of a person the slower will be their natural frequency of vibration. They will tend to produce a response in other people who have the same resonant frequency, that is who have the same product of the capacity (C) to be attractive and the ability to feel (L) sexual attraction for others.

Note that it is not necessary for the people to be equally attractive. If A is less attractive than B this may be balanced by A's strong feelings of attraction for B.

(What about the diagrams? - Ed)

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU? -The School Layout

During the buffet lunch in the Sgts' Mess at Reunion 97, Captain Graham Fletcher, Royal Signals, a serving member on our Committee, distributed some dyline copies of a school plan, which after some discussion, we came to the conclusion must have been circa 1959.

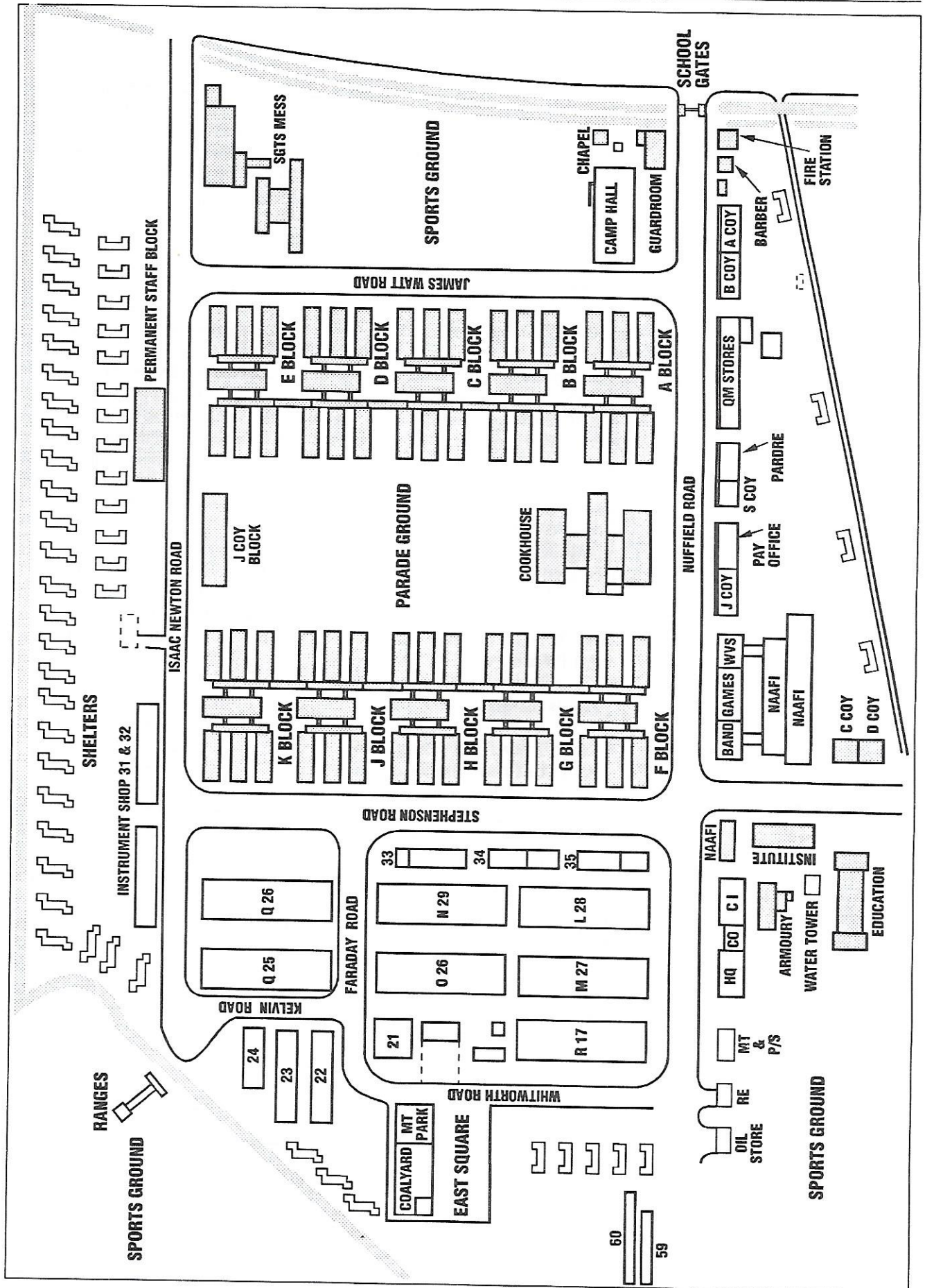
I have re-drawn it (me & my computer, that is) and present it here as a possible talking point - would any of you like to make a copy of the page and modify the layout as it was in your era? I could then run a series covering this subject in future OBANs. I could also reproduce your modified plan for you personally and let anyone have a separate clean copy, if required! Of the buildings on the plan annotated only with letters/numbers, they were as follows:

21 =	Technical Stores
22 =	Science Lab
23 =	Electronics Classroom
24 =	Electronics Classroom
31 =	Instrument Shop
32 =	Instrument Shop
33 =	Tailor's Shop (top end)
34 =	O.D. Church (bottom end)
35 =	R.C. Church (bottom end)
59 =	Engineering Drawing
60 =	Engineering Drawing

L. 28 =	Vehicle Department III
M. 27 =	Vehicle Department II
N. 29 =	Vehicle Department I
O. 26 =	Engine Bay (top end)
O. 26 =	Ancillaries (middle)
O. 26 =	Carpenters (bottom end)
P. 30 =	Electronics II
Q. 25 =	Electronics I
R. 17 =	Workshop Practice

The dotted box adjacent to the Instrument Shops was the incinerator. The box below Building 21 was the boiler house.

How was it for you? - Ed



The Army Apprentices School - Circa 1959

RASC JERSEY BOYS

**By the late
Joe Gutteridge,
(ex-P/369671)**

(Editor's Note: Joe died during December 1996, as announced in OBAN 12. His last letter to us appeared in OBAN 10, in which he requested assistance in locating ex-RASC and ex-RAOC boys of the '38/'39 era. This article is derived from a letter written by Joe and is published with the permission of Lt Col (Retd) John Hambleton, the RLC Regimental Secretary - Ed.)

When the War Office decided in 1937 to create additional technical schools so that the various Corps could provide sufficient tradesmen to cope with the degree of mechanization of the 1930s, the RASC had their first intake on 5 January 1938. These boys, about 450 in total, were accommodated in Buller Barracks, but received their technical training at the workshops in Clayton Barracks. Soon after their arrival the then Major Craig-McFeely became OC.

'Craig' was a confirmed batchelor and had definite ideas on how boys should be trained to befit them for the years ahead. During the summer of 1938 he and his 2i/c, then Captain Alex Campbell, visited Jersey to inspect a little used Army camp known as St Peter's Barracks, situated in the South West corner of the new airport (which had opened up during the previous year).

Arrangements were made with the Garrison Engineer to construct a new mess hall, gymnasium, education block, sports field and parade ground, in addition to demolishing some redundant buildings. All had to be completed by September 1938. At the end of that month, our first intake, together with staff and their families were moved to Jersey and the technical equipment began to be laid down in the new workshop buildings.

Within a few days our second intake enlisted in UK (5 October 1938) and

were ferried across to Jersey. It numbered about 120 boys. In addition, some 80 RAOC boys also moved to Jersey at the same time to commence their apprenticeships.

The RAOC boys had also enlisted on 5 October 1938, but were sent to Jersey because their new technical school at Arborfield had not been completed in time to receive them. All the 240 boys were sent on summer leave in July 1939, but whereas our RASC lads returned to the island, the RAOC boys reported to Arborfield.

My intake was the third and last to arrive in Jersey, enlisting on 31 August 1939, arriving the following day and comprised some 90 boys, so our total strength was in the 250 region. Enlisting in India I actually arrived in Jersey some months behind my intake. The onset of World War II disrupted shipping schedules and everything was covered in a blanket of snow and ice when I got to Southampton - in the middle of that first winter of World War II. So my dubious claim to fame is that I was the very last RASC apprentice to pass through the portals of St Peter's Barracks!

Sadly, I never met 'Craig', although many years later I did correspond with him for some years. He was posted to some War Office establishment as the war started, handing over to the 2i/c (APSC) who was promoted Major. At the same time, our admin officer, then Lt Alaister MacDonald was promoted Captain to take over duties as 2i/c.

The system laid down by 'Craig' was maintained by his successors. The boys were accommodated in six barrack blocks, each of some 40 or so boys. We formed 'Houses', each being named after officers in the unit - Craig-McFeely, Campbell, MacDonald, Phillips, Feney and Woolley.

Each House had one or two permanent staff senior NCOs 'attached' (they were handpicked by 'Craig' in 1938 and were invariably good sportsmen in the Corps). Among them were three NCOs who had been in the Corps team which won the Army Soccer Cup in 1936/37 -

'Jock' Dallas, 'Darby' Stewart and 'Peggy' Waite.

There was no such thing as 'Company', 'Troop', 'Platoon' etc. Each House was controlled by a Boy Sergeant who was responsible for all internal discipline, assisted by some half-dozen Boy Corporals and Lance Corporals. I can honestly say that I saw no evidence of any brutality during my time with our boys. Everything was run more or less on the lines of a public school. The barracks were demolished in the 1950s to provide for enlargement of the airport.

Undoubtedly, we were extremely fortunate in the choice of our staff. A number of the senior NCOs had, in fact, been boys themselves of the 1922-25 era before the unit closed down in Aldershot and moved to start up the Chepstow Technical School in 1924.

There was rivalry between Houses, especially regarding sports. In soccer our lads did very well in the Junior League during our first season of 1938/39 and in the following year we were champions. Most of the various sports trophies in Jersey had previously been won by one or two favoured sides. However, our entry into these sports put an end to all that!

Now and again we would be favoured with an inspecting officer from the Depot at Aldershot. Brigadier Snowdon-Smith? presented a boxing trophy for internal competition between Houses. I think he was inspector RASC at the time - 1939? About two years ago, during one of our gatherings at South Cerney we were delighted to see this same trophy on display at the Officer's Mess, received from one of the 'closed messes' no doubt.

When the 'Blitzkrieg' started in the Lowlands and France in May 1940, we daily scoured papers and maps to trace the advance of the Germans. Even so, the daily routine hardly altered within the barracks in Jersey. The war did seem far away. Our oldest lads were then sixteen and a half and the youngest under fifteen. Our first indication that all was not perfect was when remnants of the BEF started to arrive on the Island

in June 1940. Then we received orders from the SO that the islands were to become de-militarized, which meant our hurried evacuation. There was no time to be lost.

Boys and staff were divided into separate groups to dismantle all plant and equipment and to arrange for the packing. We used duck-boards to crate the large items such as lathes and engines. Everything possible for further use was packed, but some must have been disposed of via the Island authorities.

We were told to vacate our barrack rooms - the BEF were arriving in large numbers now and some of them were in a sorry state. So they occupied the rooms - our medical staff did a marvellous job in tending to their needs. For three evenings all boys were marched some two and a half miles to a location on the west coast known as Chateau Plaisis. In those days it was a road-side cafe (not night-club and restaurant). About one hundred behind the cafe was a stretch of sandy ground on which stood about one hundred wooden sheds, approximately ten feet by six.

We were detailed off into these 'beach huts' where three or four bunks had been installed. It had originally been a holiday camp! Each evening and the following breakfast, meals would be delivered by our only WD vehicle - a 6 x 4 Morris 30 cwt. Each morning we would march back to the barracks to continue with the chores.

However, on the morning of Wednesday 19 June 1940, we were woken early at 5 am and following a hurried breakfast we were assembled in full marching order. A fleet of five or six double-decker busses arrived to convey us to the docks at St Hellier. We boarded the ferry and departed from Jersey at 7 am.

We had some excitement on our passage to Southampton, but our ship escaped enemy bombing to arrive at Southampton just in time for an air raid!

A special train took us to Reading, then we were loaded into RASC vehicles and conveyed a few miles to Arborfield.

Within two days we were sent on indefinite leave, but recalled by individual telegrams to report to Deepcut. So about mid-July 1940 we occupied some spider huts in Dettingen Barracks. We remained there until 1 October 1940, whence the 240 or so were conveyed by RASC to Buller Barracks, where we occupied G, H and I blocks.

During our sojourn in Deepcut, our workshops equipment had arrived in UK by Dutch coaster and was installed in Lower 'W' Square adjacent to the stables, between them and the Power Station.

After Christmas 1940, postings for our first and many of the second intakes started. Numbers dwindled during the summer of 1941 because there were no more enlistments coming in.

Consequently, the War Office decided we should disband and on 1 September 1941 the youngest 105 boys (too young for posting) were sent by rail from North Camp station to Chepstow to complete training. The Corps band played for us on the platform and struck up with 'Wait for the Waggon' as we pulled out. Many of the 'top brass' came from the Depot to see us off. Indeed, it was a very sad day for us youngest. The older boys had been spared this move. The very last 'RASC Jersey Boy' was posted out from Chepstow in June 1943. The whole episode had lasted five and a half years.

A number of our ex-boys were transferred into REME when that Corps started up in 1942. These lads served only 3 to 4 years in the RASC. Those still serving in 1951 in RASC workshops would also have been transferred to REME.

Trying to analyse the figures, I have made an attempt to show the following dispositions, based on 240 boys:

120 - seeking discharge after completing 8 years Colour Service.

12 - medically discharged during Man Service.

24 - commissioned into RASC, REME or infantry.

72 - taking voluntary redundancy after 18 to 21 years service.

12 - retired at age 55 years.

It will be appreciated that only a handful would have remained in the Corps after 1951, mainly those obtaining commissions or who mustered as Driver by trade or who transferred to become Marine Engineers. The formation of REME in 1942 was the beginning of the end for many of our lads.

In 1974 I decided to try to find the survivors and can claim modest success in that 143 have been traced.

The RASC Jersey Boys meet annually in the UK. For some years we were fortunate in being able to assemble at South Cerny, but it is not a very easy place to reach other than by car. So recently we have gathered at a hotel, selecting a different venue each year. This allows greater access for those on the fringes.

We also meet at St Barbara's Church, Deepcut on the second Sunday of each September - a thanksgiving for our safe deliverance in June 1940. We have been able to obtain lunches from the depot Sergeant's mess which is much appreciated by all who attend. In the Church Stall, there are some items presented by 'The Jersey Boys'.

Whilst much is known of ex-boy Trumpeters and Clerks of the Corps, very little has been recorded of our five and a half year history - hence this article - to pass the word!

We intend holding our third reunion on the Island of Jersey in 1998 - our Diamond Jubilee of the Technical School opening.

In the year 2000 we intend our standard to be laid up in St Peter's parish church on the Island. By then, the youngest of us will be seventy-five and it might be difficult to find a virile stalwart to bear the Standard!

**Major 'Chinny' Charrington
-Memories of a Gentleman
Officer**

By Nick Webber (50B)

On 7 September 1950 I was deposited through the gates at Arborfield with five other boys, about 134 new apprentices.

As we milled around on the open ground by what was the Gym and Guardroom, a man wearing a peaked cap, who I later found out was to be CSM Brady of the Irish Guards, came up and sorted us by height into a formation which was to remain whenever we got together for the next three months. My end of this formation was made up from the tallest in the group and was to be E Squad.

Once we were settled, he barked, "Shun!", which some of us understood to be 'Attention' and duly responded. He then introduced us to an officer, Major Charrington of the 10th Hussars, who was to become known affectionately as 'Chinny'.

Chinny was to figure largely in my Army career and later in civilian life until his death in the early 1970s. His ensuing introductory chat was to be punctuated by an unfortunate stutter, which was always to be a characteristic of his. He was to be my first Company Commander.

About six weeks later at the end of our basic training, we were given our first leave. Chinny sent for me and one of the other boys and suggested that as he lived in the village of Sturminster New-

ton (close to our part of the world) would we like a lift to Bournemouth? Rather apprehensively, We accepted.

The first day of our leave arrived and as we drove through the gates in his car, his whole demeanour changed and he proceeded to tell us tales of his Regiment's customs and life in Egypt

Gossip had it that he had managed to loose some armoured cars from a big depot at Tel-El-Kebir. This resulted in his being passed-over for promotion when a post for a new Colonel became vacant.

Chinny also went on to explain what our jobs would be when we had qualified and left the School. It was all quite an eye opener!

To illustrate his total acceptance of his minor disability, I remember later when in 4 Division, during a charge of an A/NCO being heard by Chinny, he asked the A/NCO to explain his conduct, but had some difficulty owing to his stutter. There was a bit of an impasse, because the A/NCO on the charge also stuttered.

The CSM immediately took control, with the result that the case was dealt with satisfactorily. I was there in attendance as an HQ A/Sgt and after the A/NCO was marched out, Chinny turned to me and said, quite unperturbed, that part of the CSM's duties was to help him out in such situations.

Chinny was also considerate to us boys outside the School.

Once, when I was in 5 Division he asked some of us A/NCOs if we would punt his boat along the Thames while he entertained some friends for an afternoon. We agreed and later, somewhere near Henley we stopped at a riverside pub.

As his party disembarked, Chinny turned to us lads and said, "I know some of you boys drink", and with that lifted a tarpaulin from a crate of Charrington Ales and added, "*Don't* go ashore and *don't* dump the empties in the river"! He then left us, and feeling very happy, we proceeded to follow his orders!

Still in 5 Division, it was decided to form an arms drill squad, drilling with the old .303 rifles, to give a demonstration in the arena at The Royal Tournament in Earls Court in front of thousands of spectators. This was quite a thrill. While we were waiting to march on, Chinny took us round to the stalls where the mounted band of the Household Cavalry was waiting.

He seemed to know all the officers present and I was allowed a 'sample' beat of the massive solid silver kettle drum. At his prompting, we were given a potted history of these old cavalry regiments and which had now been motorised. This incident always made me more aware of other arms of the Army, this knowledge being put to good use when I later served overseas.

When I passed out from the School to join the Regular Army, I kept in touch with Chinny once

a year by Christmas card. Some nineteen years later, having left the Army, I was driving down to Dorchester, when I found myself in Sturminster Newton, where I realized Chinny lived. I decided then and there, to drop in and see him. This would be the first time I had seen him since about 1952.

His street was just off the town's main street and as I came up to his house, it was a sight to see a real old picture-postcard view of an English house and garden, circa 1640. Over the heavily beamed front door was a brass 'Sunburst' sign of the 'Pru', the Company that would fight a fire if it occurred. Without this seal there would be no fire-engines.

I knocked on the front door a little apprehensively and waited. After a short while the door was opened by an elderly man, wearing a wool cardigan. He stopped, eyed me from top to bottom just like he used to on the parade ground all those years ago and said, "A/CSM Webber, how nice to see you. Is your father still serving"?

He invited me inside. The style of the interior was marvellous. As we sat down, he told me of his old boys and lifted out a number of photo albums which contained photos of my Division. He knew the history of many of them, some were dead, some were officers and some like me had left the Army. He even knew where some of them were stationed and always referred to us as 'my boys'.

When I left him it was with a

feeling of sadness. The Army Apprentices School meant a lot to him and may I say that, although it may be politically incorrect to use the term, he was a 'gentleman officer'. He was very confident in his job and used his senior NCOs well to control his men.

With a few exceptions, the REME officers I have served under might have been well qualified from the Military School, Shrivenham, but they always lacked that relaxed assurance that came to Chinny so naturally.

Many readers may disagree or not understand, but sitting in my wheelchair, I have the time to read and listen more than most, to words spoken where the human touch is crowded out - or am I becoming senile?

Finally, I would like to close with an example of a national service REME officer, named De Solto Mosely who, in my opinion, fits the same profile as Chinny.

After passing out in September 1953, my first posting was to 5 AA Workshop, Newark. It was mainly civilian controlled and this tended to upset my pre-conceived idea of how REME operated.

As I had had a good time at the School and had done well in my trade test, at 18 years old I was rather cocky and sure of myself.

The work in the Tels Shop did not stretch my abilities. As a result I applied to take my Class 2

Trade Test, only to be told by my civilian boss that I was too young, being just out of boys service and needed experience. I expect this was true, but being young and eager, to be told this was a disaster to me.

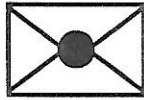
The national service officer, De Solto Mosely, at this time, always made it a policy to talk to his charges individually. I explained to him how I felt ready to take my Class 2 Trade Test and how I had been rejected.

He checked up with the section and left. I heard no more about it until I was told later by the Company Clerk, a mate, that this officer had gone into the Company Office and had phoned direct to the War Office on my behalf.

The next day I was called to the Company Commander and told to get organised as I was to report to Command Workshops at Aldershot in two days time.

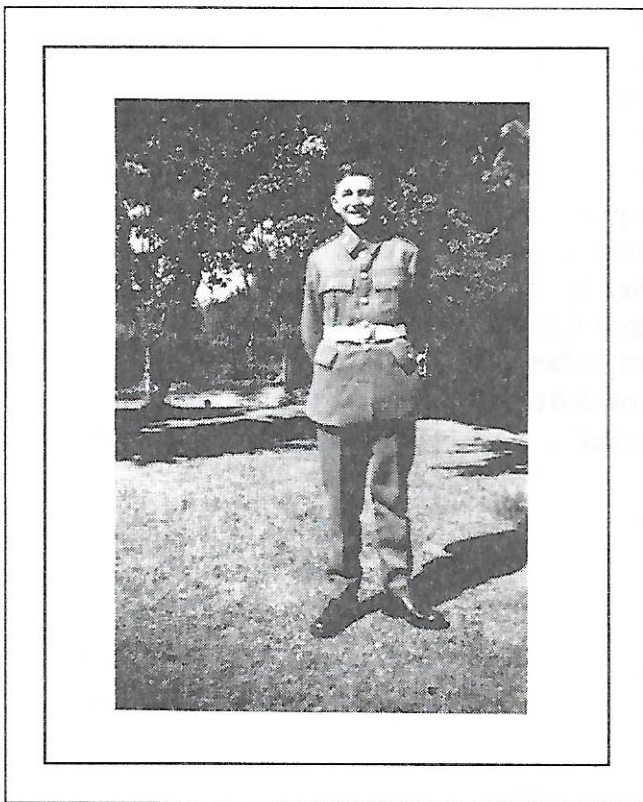
This gave me the boost I needed, so much so that I was put on to my Artificer Course in May 1957, a mere four years after leaving the Army Apprentices School.

LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR



✉ *Ron (Doc) Savage (39A) writes from Zimbabwe*

Herewith are a couple of snaps of yours truly, the first after one month service and the second circa 1943, though why I should be wearing RAOC badges when REME had already been formed and we had that unimaginative 'four shields & wreath, surmounted by the crown' I cannot, at this distance in time, imagine. I thought the 'rampageous horse' a great improvement.



What a hairstyle & note the creases!

Something seems to have happened to my letter in OBAN 13, Page 26, when discoursing on the use of the piddling little bayonet we had. I certainly wasn't talking about tins of milk having halitosis!

(The sentences should have read: 'About the only thing it was useful for was punching holes in tins of milk. Another drawback was that you had to get too close to the enemy to use it - horrible thought, he might have halitosis. - Ed.)

Apropos Brian Conway's remarks about RSM McNally's cap, the chequered hat-band denoted membership of the Scots Guards, just as Ben Cook wore the red band of the Grenadier Guards. Strangely enough, when wearing their

bearskins (no Aunt Lucy, they did not parade in the nude) the colours of the hackles were reversed - red for the Coldstream Guards (white band on cap) and white for the Grenadiers (red band on cap).

Up until the time I left (October 1941 as mentioned in an earlier OBAN) we had a normal military band formed round the nucleus of Bandmaster (WO1 in those days) Nel of the 4/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. There were a few drums and fifes, but insufficient to form a Corps of Drums. I have a badly cracked photo of the band on the stage in the gym, taken in 1940 which I am endeavouring to have 'de-cracked', so that I can provide a print for Brian Baxter's archives in the REME Museum. *(Already received, with thanks - Ed.)*



Ron Savage - circa 1943

I also have a snap of 7594903 Rex Bryant and myself, with his mother, circa 1939/40 wearing drainpipe trousers, relics of the days of puttees. Even with a 'vee' insert they never looked right - the different shades of khaki didn't help either. Is there any record of Rex Bryant at all in the AOA network?

(He is not included in the membership secretary's lists - Ed)

The photo of B Company circa 1940 brings back memories. Not so much of B Company as of the tree in the background. Is that the tree that was reported as having been cut down?

The afore mentioned Bryan Baxter has a photo of D Company taken in the same place, also of 1940 vintage, to which he would like names supplied. I have managed to remember some, but alas, not many. I am sure he would appreciate your publishing a print of the photo in OBAN.

Mention of the ATS shoulder titles - I remember one chap saying he had been asked what the initials stood for and he replied, "Academy of Technical Science!" Where there's a will there's a way, he certainly deserves a medal for quick thinking. Of course, these were worn by subsequent intakes to our's as we were badged (and buttoned on our greatcoats) RAOC. It was not unusual to find one's greatcoat hanging up without buttons as some low minded type decided he had more right to them. We were left to wear GSC buttons.

Oh yes indeed! 'Heighho, Heighho' did come from the full length cartoon 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' and was chosen after the formation of REME. I never forgave the anonymous person who decoded it should be our regimental march, mainly I think, because at that time it was too well associated with memories of seven little dwarfs setting out with their tools (digging implements) over their shoulders going for a day's work. Perhaps today if I was just starting out, it would not irk me quite so much.

That's enough burbling for now, all the best to everyone.

✍ *Les Spence (39B) writes*

I write with reference to the following paragraph from Brian Conway's letter in OBAN14 and Brian Hornsey's request re: Bugle Calls:

'While I was in charge of the buglers at Arborfield, they learned their calls from a 'A Book of Regimental and Daily Routine Bugle Calls' which, I believe, was available from either Boosey & Hawkes or George Potter & Co., both of Aldershot, from whom you may gain further knowledge about the LPs or CDs.'

I have two tapes, namely 'Bugle calls for the Army - (Volume 1, Routine Calls & Field Calls)' and 'Trumpet calls for the Army'. I have only listened to them on a couple of occasions in the last 12 years, so after due thought, Brian, please accept them for your collection with my compliments.

(Les, I have already listened to them and the Bugle calls are very nostalgic to hear. Apparently, out of 3 versions, the Reveille played at the School was not an authorized one, but was the most cheerful and was based on the words:

*"Charlie, Charlie, get up and wash yourself,
Charlie, Charlie, get up and dress."*

Very many thanks for the tapes.

Since receiving Volume 1, I contacted the original production team, and although now out of business, they had a few remaining copies of 'Volume 2, Regimental Calls'.

Those of you who visited the Pictorial Archives in the Museum during Reunion 98 will no doubt have heard these calls! - Ed.)

✍ *Joe Adey (Jan42) writes*

With reference to 'Chip' Tomlinson's photos (OBAN Issue 13), Stanley Swalwell is correct in his identification of the instructors in Photos 5 to 8. In Photo 5 the lad sitting on the springboard, far right, is Paddy O'Brien. I am in all four photo's (somewhere?), my speciality over the high box was the 'Scissors'.

I have copies of photos No2, 3 & 5 with negatives, plus one of Lt.Gen.Montgomery taking the salute at a march past and one of him talking to Col. Hilborne and RSM McNally. These last two were taken in 1942 and the remainder in 1943. By the way, I think that if you check with the military historians you will find that Lt. Gen. Montgomery was G.O.C. South Eastern Command in 1942. I have an idea there was no Southern Command at that time, just Aldershot Military District (photo enclosed).

(Joe, thanks for the enclosed photo on disc. It must be a PCX, DXF, PLT, GEM, WMF or Corel Draw file before I can use it. There is an original of that photo in the REME Museum - Ed)

Regrettably, I will not be able to get to this year's reunion but hope to make it next year. I hope the weather is kind to you next week.

✍ *Dick Wade (39A) writes*

Many words have been written to OBAN, including myself. Having read about the experiences of ex-boys, I thought it may be appropriate to add some information regarding education. Examinations by the Civil Services Commissioners applied to all military schools, not just those in the UK but also those in India as well.

Our education at Arborfield, to acquire a First Class Certificate reminds me that in English we had to study 'Mr Standfast', a book by John Buchan, also the author of 'The 39 Steps'. Considering all the other things we had to learn, I thought our education was second to none. All things said and done, some of our experiences (due to the time factor) could be misleading or incorrect. For example, Ron Savage in OBAN 13 regarding the Lewis Gun. I stand to be corrected, but the experience was real - if you brought me a pan tomorrow, I am sure I would still know how to load it with

ammo and slap it on the gun. Perhaps it was either at Command Workshops at Setchy, near Kings Lynn, Norfolk or on an assault course I attended at Aspenden Hall, Buntingford, Herts. Many thanks for the correction, no hard feelings Ron.

The other experience that comes to mind is regarding leave. For us ex-India boys in 1939 and whose families were still abroad, I was lucky to spend leave with the family of another ex-boy in Romford Essex and while there, treated to a visit to the Tower of London. Christmas leave '39, those who had nowhere to stay were sent to a home at St Leonards-on-Sea, near Hastings (I wonder if any of our ex-India boys remember that).

To sum up, one of the beauties of OBAN is that it helps to re-establish the real facts of the past, so I am sure that in the end the Apprentice School at Arborfield will be able to produce a history, accurate in its entirety.

P.S. Apologies for my absence at the '98 Reunion due to family commitments - I hope to get there in '99!

KG (Joe) Adey (Jan 42) writes

With reference to 'Chip' Tomlinson's photos (OBAN Issue 13), Stanley Swalwell is correct in his identification of the instructors in Photos 5 to 8. In Photo 5 the lad sitting on the springboard, far right, is Paddy O'Brien. I am in all four photo's (somewhere ?), my specialty over the high box was the 'scissors'.

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Regrettably I will not be able to get to the reunion this year but hope to make it next year. I hope the weather is kind to you next week.

Robin Moore (58A) writes from Australia

Paul Hudson (58A) received the following letter from Robin Moore (58A) and has requested that we publish it in OBAN.

Dear Paul,
Thanks very much for the memo outlining the upcoming reunion ('98). I would be interested in the dates for the event to see if there is a chance it would fit with any travel plans

we may have during 1998.

Most of the names you mentioned regarding the 1958 intake are familiar to me, however, I have lived in Australia since 1970 and although had numerous trips back to the UK, they have always involved family and/or friends from my Rugby Union playing days. I have not had any contact with ex Army friends, with one exception, since my demobilization in early 1970. It would present an interesting opportunity to catch up with friends after such a long period and share all the interesting experiences I'm sure we have all had.

I have provided connection details at the foot of this letter which I am happy for you to share with others, especially if they find themselves in Sidney. I have included my Internet IDs as I find more and more people are making use of this communication tool. I certainly use it extensively not only through work but to keep in contact with my children, who are currently living and working in the USA.

If you are planning on pulling together any 'potted histories' on members of the 'Class of '58', let me know and I will certainly contribute, even if we find we are unable to attend. By the way, are partners welcome or is this strictly a 'blokie' event? My connection details are:

Address: 6 Charles Street
Fairlight
New South Wales 2094
Australia.

Telephone (Home): 61-2-9948-1321
Telephone (Work): 61-2-9353-3128
Telephone (Cell): 0411-023-561

Internet ID (Home): robmoore@zip.com.au
Internet ID (Work): robmoore@au1.ibm.com

I look forward to hearing from any old friend via whatever the media.

Paul Hudson (58A) writes

40 Years On. 1958 saw intake 58A arrive during February and April with 58B following in September. Memory takes its toll, but I guess some 160 lads, fresh from school, passed through the infamous gates having innocently signed away at least 12 years of their lives, three of which were to be spent behind the confines of the said gates, all dressed in various styles of the latest fashions and sporting a fair head of hair, wondering what excitement lay ahead.

As with all newcomers, past (and since) all delusions of grandeur were soon dispelled, latest fashion clothing was discarded for denims, boots and berets, the heads of hair became one style - very, very short (courtesy of Charlie) and the outside world was to be a forbidden area for at least six weeks (courtesy of Fred Silvers and his mean streak eye) and

then only occasional visits were on offer.

Life at the School is well known to all and sundry and it would take a book to record however, virtually all of us survived and three years later during December 1960 and July 1961, *men* passed out of those same gates through which *boys* had arrived, in the excitement of leaving probably vowing never to return, of course.

Years and maturity, however, have a knack of pushing the positive to the fore and the negative to the rear. For me I felt a sort of magnetic force when in the area back in 1980 and all of a sudden I was through those same gates requesting a look round; the biggest surprise being that the old place was virtually the same as we left it 19 years before, the one exception being that all the old faces were missing.

This visit led to my joining the AOBA and being fortunate to attend the last reunion in the old camp. I am proud to say that this year (1998) was my 20th consecutive reunion since then. Over the years I have met many old friends, but 58ers were very thin on the ground until the last few years that is, when one or two more would appear. Those of us attending last year (1997) decided that this year we would mark our 40th anniversary and to do this we should do a bit of recruiting. I drew the short straw, so on behalf of all I agreed to do a bit of research.

I am very grateful to Peter Gibson for his help in furnishing names and addresses from the Association records of all known 58ers, whether paid up members or not, especially bearing in mind that he had only just taken over the role of membership secretary and I had lumbered him with such a task. As a result, I sent out some 36 letters along with Peter's resumé of the Association, from which I received about a dozen replies, including one from Australia, included above.

The result of all this is, that of those original 160, eight (5%) of us walked back into the same camp this year, albeit somewhat changed (I mean the camp, but yes, us fellows as well) the largest contingent yet; the new members saying the same as we all did on our first reunion, that it would not be their last. It was a superb weekend as always, but that little bit special as it was our 40th anniversary. Stories were swapped, experiences shared and the old camaraderie in evidence as it was all those years ago.

We found that we had all done well in our careers, both in service and subsequently, agreeing unanimously that our three years had been well worth it, regardless of our feelings at the time. We now look forward to 2008 and our 50th anniversary when hopefully we can bring along more 50ers. So, any of you out there who have not attended so far please note, 2008 is a Muster Parade - no excuses! It would be great to see you before then, of course.

I can be reached on Telephone Number 01844 347684 (evenings) and 0410 834848 (daytime). I can also put you in touch with others known to me if you require.

For the record, those 58ers attending were, John Kelsey, Paul Wiggins, Dave Wayland, Ken Anderson, Colin Chance, Alan Malony, Charles Hollingsworth and myself, Paul Hudson. (See photo 59 on Page 15 - Ed).

✍ *Paul Wiggins (58A) writes*

I thought I would take a few minutes out to write and say how very much I enjoyed our recent Old Boys' Reunion Weekend. The Committee members and staff did a splendid job and in spite of the weather conditions, made it a successful event.

It was nice to see the old 58 intake there (perhaps 'jeeps' to some of you old hands) to celebrate the 40th year of our intake. Our apologies to the RSM for nearly drinking the Mess dry, but promise to try harder next year.

✍ *Ron (Doc) Savage (39A) writes (again)*

Enclosed is a print of the Arborfield 4/7th Royal Dragoon Guards band taken in 1940. As can be seen there was quite a mixture of ex-Dukies, ex-Queen Vics as well as a number of orphanages and similar institutions.

Incidentally, the photo brings back memories from the time Ben Cook was RSM. Walking around one night he caught a 4/7th bandsman and a NAAFI girl in 'flagrant delicious' on one of the billiard tables in the canteen. I'm not sure whether Ben was outraged at the lack of decorum or the misuse of the table!! However, as it used to be said, 'a marriage was arranged.....'

I hope you will be able to use the photo of the band in a future issue of OBAN. When you have finished with it please pass it onto Brian Baxter at the REME Museum with my regards.

(Ron, the format and size makes it difficult to include in OBAN, but I now work as Pictorial Archivist at the REME Museum, so will gratefully accept your photo as a donation on his behalf - Ed.)

Incidentally, Brian has a photo of D Coy circa 1940 to which I have been able to put a few names and I am sure he would be only too pleased if you would use your good offices to try for a few more - I don't expect miracles at this time because there cannot be too many 'founder members' like myself still around.

Do you have any record of LS Tedder 4922 or Rex Bryant 4903? If so I would be delighted to be put in touch with them.

(Can anyone out there help Ron? - Ed)

REUNION 98 PHOTOGRAPHS

As you will have seen, all the photographs taken at the reunion and included in OBAN 15 have been allocated reference numbers (in brackets) at the end of each caption. If any reader would like prints of any photos, they are available from Paul A Tyrrell, 1 Triumph Close, Woodley, Reading RG5 4AQ. Tel No. 0118 969 0684.

DONATIONS

The Association acknowledges with sincere thanks the following donations :

J R Wade	(39A)	£5.00
B C Atkins	(43A)	£2.50
B D Barker	(54B)	£5.00
J H Russell	(PS)	£5.00

Should any donations have been missed off this list, the Association apologises and expresses its thanks

RESIGNATIONS

The following members have resigned from the Association in recent months:

Name	Intake	Coy	Date
A Gifford	(54A)	B	06/07/98
A J Lyne	(54B)	A	06/07/98
N A Tiley	(54B)	D	10/07/98
M J Layton	(54B)	B	10/07/98
P N Bennett	(54B)	A	14/07/98
D C Bradley	(78B)	-	28/08/98

Name	Intake	Coy	Date
G W Hincks	(56B)	-	04/09/98
G R Burt	(47A)	C	04/09/98
G J Gareth	(95C)	J	04/09/98
R J Whiteman	(39A)	D	08/09/98
A Norris	(PS)	-	19/10/98

DECEASED

It is with sadness and deep regret that the Association reports the deaths of the following:

Major Leslie Crookes (39B) died 10 May 1998.
(Obituary published in **The Craftsman, Vol 54, No 8**).

Members whose deaths have been notified or discovered since publication of OBAN 14.

A A Day (Intake 37), died 19 July 1998.

D Patterson (49A), died during 1996.

J W Skews (54A), date of death unknown.

DEDICATION SERVICE FOR KEN SCHOFIELD (62C)

24th October 1998 was Reunion Saturday.

It was also one year to the day since we lost my brother and after some considerable debate as to where - as a family - we should be we agreed Ken would have wanted us to be in Arborfield with old friends who would help us through the day. Clearly this was the right thing to do as everyone was very supportive in true Arborfield spirit and for which I can't thank you all enough.

During the latter part of his illness Ken nurtured a number of acorns into small trees, these gave him a focus for his tenacity and helped him face his ordeal. It was his ambition that as many as possible be planted in places he loved Arborfield being one. So after we lost him I approached the AOBA Management Team who gave their permission for three to be planted in College grounds.

The plan was to hold a short service of dedication by the grounds by our Garden of Remembrance followed by Ken's widow Sylvia and his son William planting the trees. However the weather got the better of us with rain and winds requiring a quick re-think. The RSM very kindly came to the rescue suggesting the dedication service be held in the Sgt's Mess leaving the opportunity to plant the trees at a latter date in more clement weather. Thank you for that Phil - it made all the difference.

In front of around 100 old boys and college staff who stayed on to lend support Padre Geoff (in full combat dress as he was expecting to get wet!) lead a moving and emotional service of dedication. He dedicated one of the trees to Ken's memory, asking the Lord to look over him. It was then left to me to say a few words, expressing peoples' thoughts as to my brother and his tenacity. This I found difficult, but with the help and support of everyone, I hope, paid him a fitting tribute.

As the service finished so did the rains so the family, CO, Adjutant, RSM and friends took the opportunity of racing over to the garden area and managed to plant one tree before they started again. I didn't know Padres were trained in the art of tree planing, but Padre Geoff certainly knew what to do and helped Sylvia and William achieve their objective of not leaving Arborfield without planting a tree. Now a bit of Ken will always be in the College, heaven help the apprenticeses!!

It would not have been possible for us to have managed the day without the love and support of all our friends in the AOBA. For that and the many other occasions you have supported us I wish to thank you all. Our special thanks also go to the CO for allowing us to plant the tree and to the RSM for stepping in and saving the day.

A number of friends have since asked me for a copy of the poem I read, so I thought I would end this recount of the event by reproducing it here, in dedication of my brother and role model :

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST

By Amanda Bradley

If you treasure the beauty that shows all around you
And try and add some of your own
Enjoy the companionship others can give you
Yet value your moments alone.
If you honour opinions that differ from yours
Yet stand up for what you believe
Admire the accomplishments others have made
And take pride in what you can achieve.
If you love those around you and love yourself too
If your spirit is eager and free
Then you know what it means to live life to the fullest
And be the best 'you' you can be.

See you all next year.

David Schofield (65A)

ASSOCIATION ITEMS FOR SALE.

Video Cassette, entitled 'Army Apprentice' - running time 54 minutes - contents: *Reunion Parade 1997 + Old Boys Reminiscences + 'Soldier Apprentice' 1951 + 'Apprenticed to Adventure' 1962.*

Contact John Smithson (46B) on Tel. No: 01494 534971.

By post to members: £11.50

By post to non-members: £14.00

AOBA ties are available from the REME Association at the REME Museum (or the Hon. Sec.)
(Tel. No: 0118 9763223 for ordering information).

A **24 page history** of the Princess Marina College/Army Apprentices College is available from the Membership Secretary, as are back numbers of the OBAN.

History: No charge, but 50p postage & packing to UK and BFPO addresses and £1.00 for overseas.

OBANs: £1.00 each including postage & packing. 5 Issues for £4.00 including postage & packing. (Orders from members overseas will attract considerably higher postage charges - overall cost will be £2.50 per issue).

For a copy of the History, UK based members should send postage stamps. Payment for a single copy of OBAN may be made with postage stamps (5 x 20p). Requests for more than one copy should be accompanied by a cheque.

Cheques for ALL items should be made payable to: Central Bank AAC (AOBA).

Army Apprentices School Blazer Badges. The Membership Secretary was told of the availability of these during the Reunion 98, not officially available from the AOBA, but from Badges of Pride in Southampton, Tel No. 01428 885389.

THE CRAFTSMAN

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Cheques should be made payable to REME Corps Account No. 2 and crossed. All correspondence should be sent to :

The Editor,
THE CRAFTSMAN,
Isaac Newton Road,
Arborfield, Reading,
Berkshire, RG2 9NJ.



REUNION 98 - GROUP PHOTOGRAPH