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Arborfield Apprentice's Magazine



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Arborfield Old Boys Association

www.arborfieldoldboys.co.uk

ARBORFIELD OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

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All Past Commandants

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AOBA Chairman's Final Report



You may have noticed the increasing number of names included in memorial in the OBAN - we are indeed a dwindling band of brothers. It is therefore of ever increasing importance that we strengthen our membership from the younger ex-apprentices. The fiftieth anniversaries that we

celebrate at our reunion week-end are popular and a fertile recruiting ground for membership. The term 'ex-boy' favoured by schools to describe their earlier pupils, unfortunately is far too descriptive of the membership majority of this association, so understandably there is discussion that a possible name change might assist in our recruitment efforts.

The move from Arborfield to Lyneham is in full swing and I wish to register my thanks to all those who have been looking after the association's interest by recovering and securing as many of our memorable assets as possible. The majority of which are moving with the museum - my thanks to the museum directors past and present who have catered for this eventuality. You may be aware that Mike Tizzard personally removed a number of the inscribed bricks from the old range and has also agreed a plan that the remainder will be set aside for a short period following its demolition. The gates, which are being restored by 5 Bn, which will be taken to and remounted at Lyneham are looking very good. I would also particularly like to thank all those involved in the search for the original Honours' Boards that used to hang in the old gymnasium at Rowcroft Barracks. As they became full, newer boards were manufactured. We know of these and where they are, but after much searching we have still to locate the originals. I wish to make a personal vote of thanks to Al Jones of 61B who has put in sterling work over the last year and has documented every

avenue and known angle in trying to discover the whereabouts or outcome of those original boards.

A few years ago, you will recall that we waived the subscription requirements for those members achieving their 80th year whilst appreciating those who wished to maintain payment of the full subscription. I wish to make mention of one of our number who had paid his subscription and learned later of the need for only £1 just to make our administration easier. Instead of taking a refund he asked that the amount of each overpayment be used to defer his reduced annual subscriptions. Now he must endeavour to reach his 103rd year to make the most of his outlay - I'm sure that we would all drink to that.

This is my last Chairman's report, standing down after a number of years serving as Vice-Chairman when I took over from Mike Sibbons in the early nineties and after taking over as Chairman from Peter Gibson in 2007. Thank you for honouring me with the position and I have enjoyed meeting many of you year after year at the reunion week-end and noting that you remembered my name, but more often than not I was unable to recall yours - but as you have probably heard before - "I don't do memory!"

I will miss the position of Parade Commander, it is the one time when people actually respond to screaming and shouting! I will now be able to stand on the sideline and watch the fine body of ex-apprentices march past - something I could not see from the front.

In closing, I must thank all those members of the committee, again, past and present, who gave much of their time so that we could enjoy the benefits of the Association..

Brian (Bugs) Hutchins 61B

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Committee Members Reports



Honorary Secretary's Report

Wow – what a great weekend we all had!

Well for me it was just the best of the 25 reunions I have been to, of course made all the better by being my 50th plus Brian Hutchins gave me the honour of marching the parade both on and off. An experience I will never forget and one of my 'Bucket List' – so big thanks from me to Brian.

Regrettably some of the aspects of the weekend could have been better, especially for some of us disturbed by very late revellers in the hotel. There were a few other incidents in the hotel which I have reported back and I can confirm I have a meeting with the hotel management to resolve these. In 4 years we have been there I know they want only to give us the best of experiences, so I'm confident we will not see a repeat.

As for the NMA, well we would like your feedback please. Some ideas we have had include starting earlier – say leave hotel before 9 am, then hold the parade at 10am, allowing us to have the Drum Head at 11. This would mean there would be more time for us to look around the NMA, which is very difficult with our current schedule. Also the lunch..... I don't know about you, but I find it rather too much!! Great idea, and less expensive than the alternative finger sandwiches, but I'm

not sure. Anyway others have suggested we completely do away with the sit-down lunch and give the time completely over to looking around, with the option of individuals obtaining their own lighter meal in the main café. Anyway we would welcome your thoughts on this and my I please ask you to let me know before our next committee meeting in mid-October as plans need to be finalised at that meeting.

Like others I would like to express my personal thanks to our outgoing Chairman Brian Hutchings for the outstanding support and guidance in his role. He made the transition for me into this role so much easier and for this I will be ever grateful. And to our new Chairman, Mike Tizard... we will enjoy a great time together as you bring your own flair to the Association and we look forward to the future with a sense of anticipation – well we haven't heard you shouting at us as Parade Commander yet!!

David Schofield 65A



Honorary Treasurer's Report

After a very successful Reunion in July it is back to the reality of keeping on top of the accounts and ensuring there are no unpaid bills floating around.

Due to HMRC changing Gift Aid submissions from paper to computer, with the help of Dave Cosway and Ian Clark we are having to change the layout of the Database to extract the information that

HMRC now require and convert onto their system. Once that is done I will be sending off the claims for years 2013/2014 which hopefully will be done before the end of the year, this will keep me busy for a while.

Laurie Blakely 61B



Honorary OBAN Editor's Report

Yet another excellent reunion, with a great turn out for every event.

Unfortunately we are losing Brian after many years of successfully guiding our association on its path. We look forward to working with Mike Tizard, in this new era for us all.

Gentlemen I must once again plead for articles for your magazine. I have very few articles for the next edition, and will not be able to get anywhere near the usual 40 pages that are produced. I have plenty of jokes, but I do not think you want to read a comic.

It does not have to be novel, a couple of pages would be great. If you can include a photo relevant to the subject great, if not do not worry I might be able to find something suitable. Include your name and intake, so we all know who you are.

Which brings me on to another idea, I am thinking of starting an archive of members photographs. I have lots of official photographs, but consider that members must have many more that show a more personal side of life at Arborfield. If you are happy to send me your pictures please do so. On CD/DVD, Email attachment, if you are able. If you want to send me your printed photos, I will look after them as my own, scan them, and return them asap. Please do not forget to include name, intake, and address, so that I can return them.

I thank you in advance.

Urgent, new articles desperately needed!

Ray Stevens 64C



Honorary Registrar's Report

Since the OBAN 61 we have had 28 new members and 5 reactivations
NEW MEMBERS:

Mellor P M A-57A-C
Kirkpatrick P A-78C-B
Atkins R M A-63C-B
Park A D A-75C-C
Wharmby A P A-74C-C
Magee J A A-91C-D
Cheek J C S A-76C-D
Hodgson S A-87A-D
Sant R A-65B-C
Atkinson A A-70B-B
Newcombe R R A-39C-F
Cox P S A-81A-A
Marks V A-74C-A
Watson R K A-95A-X
Besant F N A-71C-D

Langer W J A-70A-D
Sear W K A-64B-A
Westlake A G S A-59C-A
Clark I O A-62A-D
Bridges R A-65C-B
Patton C A-65B-A
Medley R A-65A-B
Gunstone J A-65A-A
Crabtree E A-65A-B
Ross K A-65A-D
Smith A A-65A-D
Saunders W A-65B-A
Jobes MH A-77C-D

Checking the Electronic OBAN mailing list it appears that about 50% of our members have changed their email address since becoming members.

It is important that I have the correct data whether it be snail mail addresses or whatsoever.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP, so that I can keep the database up to date.

Thank you

Alec Powell 64C



Honorary Webmaster's Report

I am sad to say that this will be last report as Hon. Webmaster for The Arborfield Old Boys' Association. I was privileged to hold this post for 4 years, but a

neck problem has severely limited my ability to work for long periods on my PC, and a lot of work, including a change of the software used to build and maintain the site will be required in the future if the website is to remain current and completely compatible with today's technology, iPhones, smartphones etc.

May I therefore take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed articles, photos, information, and (sadly) obituaries of those lost to us over the years, and also those who have

volunteered to be Intake contacts, and supplied updates to their "Find a friend" pages.

I would also like to thank my fellow AOBA committee members for their friendship, help and advice, a great team effort which ensures our Association continues to progress to the future.

Last, but certainly not least, please join me in welcoming our new Hon. Webmaster, Mark Jobes 77C to the post, and I am sure he will enjoy the same wonderful support as I have done from all of the association.

It has been a pleasure, Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you.

Herbie (John) Cole 66B



Honorary Recruiting Sergeant's Report

Recruiting has greatly improved over the last year with particularly good results

coming from the 'Farewell to Garrison' event, held at Bordon in June, and this year's reunion of the 65ers.

I have started a REME VMs page on Facebook, which has attracted new members, and Alec is currently running the REME Air Tecs page.

Forces Reunited has over 1650 ex-Arborfield personnel listed and I am currently working my way through them, sending each an email inviting them to join the AOBA.

During the last year I have produced and had distributed AOBA leaflets to 138 Army museums in the UK as well as all REME Association branches worldwide.

I've placed advertisements for new in the Craftsman magazine as well as the Royal British Legion magazine inviting ex-Arborfield boys to join us.

All this, and many various other recruiting methods, has resulted in a very good year for new membership.

Bob Castell 64A

Aircraft Servicing in the Army – the early days

The Birth of REME Aviation

During the First World War, Royal Flying Corps machines were piloted and serviced by Army personnel; this arrangement continued until 1 April 1918, when the Royal Air Force (RAF) was formed. Between the Wars, Army pilots were seconded on flying duties to the RAF, but there was no servicing of aircraft by Army personnel during this period. In 1941, the Army Observation Post (AOP) Squadrons were formed and later came the formation of the Glider Pilot Regiment and Light Liaison Flights. The aircraft used by these organizations were piloted by Army pilots, but servicing continued to be the responsibility of the RAF. In 1957 a decision was made that AOP Squadrons and Light Liaison Flights would be incorporated into the newly formed Army Air Corps and the servicing of Army aircraft would become the responsibility of REME. The old RAF Light Aircraft School at Middle Wallop became the Army Air Corps Centre. The training of technical personnel was started at Middle Wallop in 1957 and REME assumed responsibility for First and Second-line servicing of Army Air Corps aircraft from 1 September 1958. On the formation of the Army Air Corps, the aircraft in general use in the Army was the *Auster*; the *Skeeter* was brought into service in 1958. The *Alouette* (a direct-coupled turbine helicopter) and the *Beaver* (a fixed-wing radial-engine aircraft) were introduced in 1961 and this was followed by the *Scout* (a free gas-turbine helicopter) in 1962 – 63.

The Embryo Aircraft Servicing System

In 1958, the REME repair system for Army equipment was based, simply, on the repair of equipment as and when it failed. However, in the case of aircraft, inspection to forestall failure became absolutely paramount (flight safety being the cardinal principle of aircraft operation). Regular inspection was required to ensure that aircraft were fit to fly at all times and to reveal likely causes of failure, before the component or assembly actually failed. Repairs were initiated as a result of inspection and by changing assemblies and components reaching the end of their safe 'life', as assessed by the manufacturer. A system was devised where each type of aircraft had a defined periodicity of inspection and various types of inspection were conducted at the different levels of servicing. For example, in the case of the *Auster*, the first type of inspection carried out was the Daily inspection (before flight, turn-around and after flight); then the Primary inspection (every 50 flying hours); then the Minor inspection (every 400 flying hours); and, finally, the Major inspection (every 1,600 flying hours). After the Major inspection,

which was in effect a complete re-build, the aircraft would start a new periodicity cycle.

Before an aircraft could fly, it had to be cleared as completely airworthy by qualified aircraft technical personnel. This was a mandatory requirement and was fulfilled in civil aviation by licensed aircraft ground engineers. In Army aviation, clearance was to be conducted by REME aircraft technicians and aircraft artificers, working under command of REME aircraft-trained officers; clearance would be required before every flight and following every repair or inspection. In short, the technician who had carried out the repair or inspection certified in the aircraft documents that the task had been done to his complete satisfaction; the senior technician who had checked the job then 'over-signed'; and the Aircraft Artificer checked that all technicians of the various trades involved had completed their tasks satisfactorily and gave the final certificate of clearance for flight. The aircraft was then ready for acceptance by the pilot.

It was well appreciated that, in view of the flight safety aspect, aircraft technicians, artificers and aeronautical engineering officers would shoulder considerable responsibilities of a different nature to that normally experienced by the Corps. To meet this need, it was necessary to select and then train REME officers, artificers and mechanics in aircraft engineering disciplines to the highest standards. The first practical task was to identify REME officers who had previous aircraft experience and this was done by sifting through personal records and calling for volunteers. For example, Major (to become Brigadier) John Probert was a war-time Army seconded *Spitfire* pilot. These 'volunteers' reported to RAF Middle Wallop to provide the nucleus for launching REME into the business of aircraft servicing. The next problem, and a major one, was to train supervisors. A number of Vehicle Artificers underwent conversion training at the RAF Station at Kirkham, Lancashire, and formed the backbone of the new organization. The RAF was highly impressed by the quality of these artificers and their general engineering knowledge.

The first potential aircraft mechanics, who were specially selected vehicle mechanics, arrived at the Aircraft Trades School, Middle Wallop, in June 1957; telecommunications mechanics, instrument mechanics and electricians followed. Some ancillary tradesmen for employment at Second-line were sent to RAF stations for 'on-the-job' training. The staff at the new Aircraft Trades School was, with the exception of one REME officer, all RAF. No.1 Aircraft Mechanics course passed out in August 1957 and they were the first tradesmen to be

responsible for the First line servicing of the aircraft of that flight and was equipped with ground equipment and special tools to enable it to carry out its task. The workshop, although under the command of the flight commander, was controlled technically by the OC Squadron workshop. A typical flight workshop establishment would be:

- One Artificer (Airframe and Engine)
- One Artificer (Electrics, Instruments and Radio)
- Eight Aircraft Technicians (Airframe and Engine)
- One Aircraft Technician (Electrics and Instruments)
- One Aircraft Technician (Radio)
- One Vehicle Mechanic

The establishment would vary in accordance with the type of aircraft operated by the flight.



The Squadron Workshop

Dependent on its task, an Army Air Corps Squadron would have from two to five flights and the size of the Squadron workshop attached would vary in accordance with the number of flights in the Squadron and the type of aircraft to be serviced. The workshop was responsible for Second line servicing of all aircraft in the Squadron and was equipped to meet this task. It was commanded by a REME Captain (up to four flights supported) or a Major (five flights supported) and its establishment for manpower and equipment was dependent on the number of flights supported. In addition, each Squadron workshop had an attached RAOC stores section, which was responsible for holding and procuring aircraft spares from the appropriate RAF air stores park or maintenance unit.

The Independent Flight Workshop

For isolated garrisons, independent brigade groups, or for specific tasks requiring only one flight, an independent flight was formed. This unit had an attached independent flight workshop, which was established and equipped to enable it to carry out both First and Second line servicing.

Deployment of REME Aircraft Workshops (circa early 1960s)

In the Field Army, the flight workshop was based on a brigade strip in the rear brigade area, from which both rotary and fixed wing aircraft operated – the rotary wing aircraft having pick-up and briefing arrangements at brigade headquarters. The workshop was, essentially, mobile and capable of carrying out tasks under normal field conditions without special accommodation. The squadron workshop was located on a strip in the rear

divisional area and, although deemed to be 'mobile' by the nature of the tasks of the workshop (e.g. major inspections and extensive repairs), it lacked the tactical mobility of its parent squadron headquarters.

The story of Army Aviation has been, without doubt, one of success from the very start and the part that REME has played (and continues to play) has been vital to it. If you were part of REME Aviation in those early days and would like to share your experiences, please bring them to the attention of the Corps Archivist (email: mike.sibbons@rememuseum.org.uk).

From the Corps Archives, by Colonel (Ret'd) Mike Sibbons, 61C, Corps Archivist

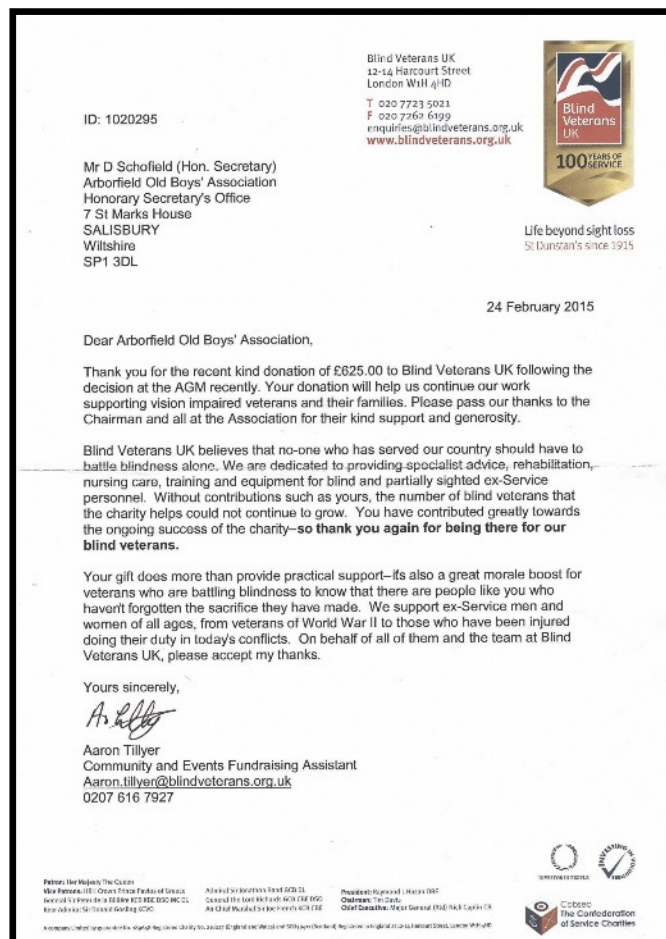
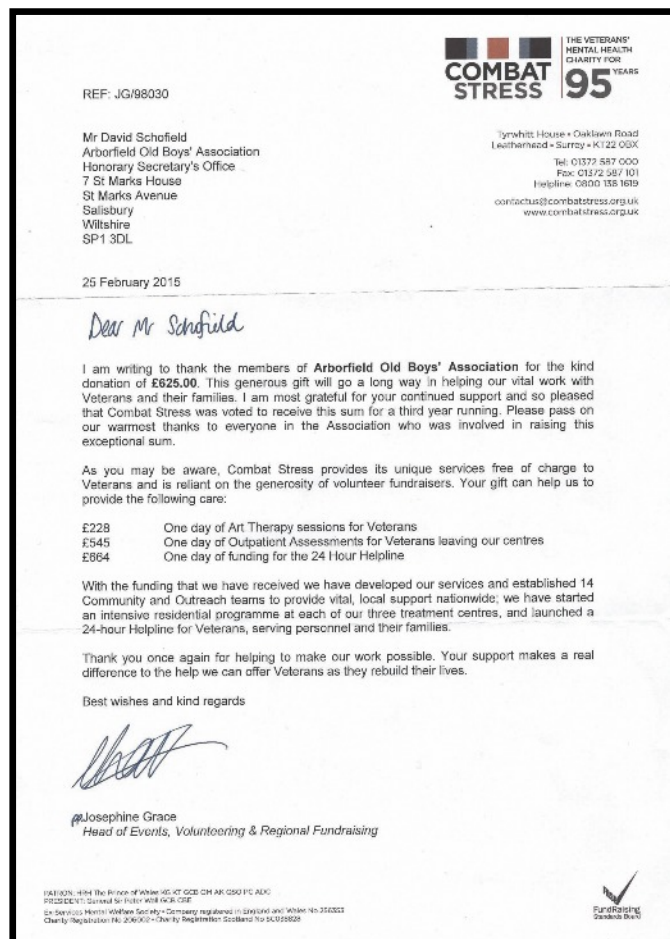
The Corps Archives, which are located in the REME Museum at Arborfield, contain a wealth of information on the Corps' heritage. On 1 September 1958, the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (DEME) assumed responsibility from the RAF for First and Second line servicing of Army Air Corps aircraft. This article gives an account of those early days and the development of aircraft engineering in the Corps.

(This is a 'digest' of the full article that appeared in Craftsman magazine – my thanks to them and Colonel Mike for permission to publish it here. Ed.)

AOBA Benevolence Fund.

Please remember that the **Arborfield Old Boys' Association** maintains a **Benevolence Fund**, for the benefit of any Ex-Apprentice who may or may not be a member of the association. If you know of anyone who is having problems, and you believe a contribution from the fund can be of any help or

assistance, please contact the Honorary Secretary at the earliest opportunity. Also each year we make donations to the Chairman's Charities, and for this year they are going to be Combat Stress, and Blind Vets UK, each will receive £625.



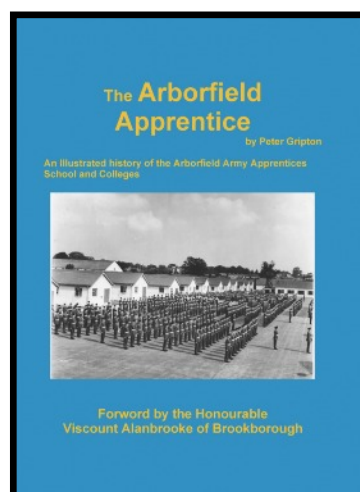
Arborfield Old Boys' Association Web Shop

The Arborfield Apprentice. New Edition

Edition Two of the Arborfield Apprentice by Peter Gripton. An illustrated history of the Arborfield Apprentices' School and Colleges from 1939 to 2004, with anecdotes taken from countless Arborfield Apprentices down the years. Includes the 'Final Chapter' written by Peter Gripton after the college closure.

It is a MUST for all Arborfield Apprentices whether they joined in 1939 or any other time up to its closure in 2004.

Foreword by the Honourable Viscount Allenbrooke of Brookborough



Available from the Arborfield Old Boys Web Shop. £30 + P&P

Terry O'Sullivan – Still fighting

Introduction

Terry O'Sullivan served in the Corps from 1962 to 1974. He joined the Army Apprentice School on Course 62C and qualified as a Vehicle Mechanic. He comes from a family of fighters. His father and uncles were all professional boxers and his cousin is Snooker star Ronnie O'Sullivan. Originally, Terry was involved in Boxing and Rugby but took up Karate a little later. He is now 67 and lives in Amesbury in Wiltshire. He has been practising Shotokan Karate on and off for over 30 years. He won the Gold Medal (Masters Kumite Fighting 65+) and a silver medal in the Master Team Kata, at the Shotokan 11th (SKIF) Karate World Championships in the Olympic Stadium in Australia 2012.

Part 1

In November 2012, I was on the return flight from Sydney after achieving Gold and Silver medals at the Shotokan Karate Kanazawa International Federation (SKKIF) 2012 11th World Karate Championships in Sydney. I had just won Masters Kumite 65+, beating two Japanese and a Canadian-Japanese in the final three on the way to Kumite Gold Medal. In the team event we came second in the Masters Team Kata, Japan was first, Indonesia came 3rd and I also achieved 4th Place in the Masters Individual Kata.

During the cramped Etihad Airways flight home from Sydney via Abu Dhabi to Heathrow I had time to reflect on my martial arts career that actually started when I was a lad of 13 in Inala (meaning peaceful in Aborigine), a suburb of Brisbane in Australia, however, it was far from that in the late 50's early 60's.

I suppose it was to be expected that I would get into some form of martial arts really as my father and three of my uncles were professional boxers, all making a name for themselves in the 40's and 50's, they were known as *The Fighting O'Sullivan's*, it was a tough sport then. Uncle Danny and my Dad, Dickie (his ring name was *Toy Bulldog*) were the best known. Uncle Danny was British bantamweight champion 1949-51 and fought for the World Bantamweight Championship in Johannesburg late 1950 but lost to South African, Vic Toweel. Uncle Danny and Dad were fighting the top guys in those days. Danny won 33 (KO 17), lost 9 and drew 1, my Dad won 20 (KO 13), lost 15 and drew 4. Uncle Mickey was no slouch though, as a bantamweight he represented the Army from 1947-49 (REME initially then as a PTi) having 40 amateur fights, he had 39 professional bouts including one with Vic Herman, who went on to fight for the World Title. In later years he was Chairman

of the London Boxers' Association and is Snooker star Ronnie O'Sullivan's granddad. Uncle Tommy was a very good amateur in the Army, his son Kevin was also a good amateur boxer, these days Kevin and his son Barry practice Shotokan karate, Kevin is a 5th Dan and teaches alongside Barry 2nd Dan, both from Tigers Shotokan Karate in Borehamwood

To find out more about *The Fighting O'Sullivan's* just Google each name with boxer after, click **boxrec**.

My Dad was in the Royal Navy during the war and spent some time in Queensland, in 1945 he turned professional while still serving in Brisbane and when not in the brig for fighting ..other shipmates... short fuse but Captain's favourite !! he was allowed to have his first 5 fights, all 12 rounds; he won four inside the distance and drew the other. He carried on boxing on his return in 1947 until in 1951, the family emigrated to Australia; he had one more fight in Brisbane in 1951 against Johnny Gleeson, before Mum talked him into retiring.

At first Dad had some difficulty keeping a job, as soon as one of the Aussie's called him a pommy b*****, he would 'knock'em out'!!!

Eventually we settled in Rocklea, a Brisbane suburb just off the Ipswich Road. I made some really good friends there, but sadly have lost touch with them now. Dad actually kept his job in the local sawmill and I got down to doing some schooling and playing cricket. When Queen Elizabeth came to Brisbane in 1953 on her Coronation Tour I was one of the kids lining the streets in white t-shirts, shorts (and bare feet!) waving the Union Jack Flag along with the other kids. Apart from enjoying school, I learnt to ride horses bare back, also learnt the hard way not to stick your head up from the barricade when you're having a brick fight, not to make a raft out of bull rushes, they tend to separate halfway over the river ... we nearly drowned!! , not to try and stop a pedal car bare foot going down a steep hill .. makes a mess of your toes .., not to chop a toy car up with a tommy axe... my friend Allen nearly chopped my middle finger off, also not to swim in waterholes where snakes like to swim!!! ... My poor Mum, one time I was out in the bush cycling with mates and somehow managed to slice my foot, when I returned home there was blood everywhere, bit touch and go by the time medics arrived, only one phone at the post office, Mum passed out while I was being stitched up !!! Another time Dad was going to cut the grass with our electric mower, he lowered the extension out of the window, little helpful me decided to connect the cable, big flash Knocked flying !!!! Ha .. no health & safety!!!!

I must have been a handful in those days, thank goodness my boys weren't like me

My two younger brothers John and Peter were born in Rocklea, John was born without a right foot, although he coped brilliantly with his iron leg, swam and ran, you can hardly tell these days when he walks, however it did prevent him from boxing competitively.

I am always being ribbed by those two, they were born there but still speak like Londoner's, I was born in Islington and still have bit of an Australian twang, especially after a few beers!!!

After about 9 years we moved to Inala from our rented home in Rocklea, Housing not much different to Rocklea, still had the loo in the back garden, this was called either the Dunny or the Little House, bit like a thunder box in a small shed with no windows ... the pan was collected each week unless there was a strike, it then had to be emptied in the back garden, and to prevent maggots, saw-dust was put on after going to the loo, Mum used to have to put disinfectant in at least twice a week, no toilet paper in those days, just newspaper cut in squares tied to a nail on the wall by string, no hot water either, to have a hot bath was a bit of a fuss, we had a 3' cylinder tank about a foot in diameter, water pipes coiled on the inside with a little compartment at the base, this you had to put kindling in and set alight, eventually ... hot water. First time I saw TV was at neighbours in late 1960, programmes like the Micky Mouse Club, Maverick, Rifleman etc. Not long after moving to Inala I started boxing training

Towards the end of our first year there, my Dad was knocked down by a coach while cycling to work, luckily the bike took most of it., Dad found other means to get to work, so when the bike was repaired I used to cycle to Rocklea at the weekends. On one of those excursions I was knocked off the bike by a car trying to overtake me as I was turning off the Ipswich Road. The lady who witnessed the accident said I flew through the air and landed in a heap and didn't move, she thought I was dead. When I awoke sometime later in Brisbane General Hospital, Dad was at the end of my bed grinning and I asked him 'What are you laughing at?'. Bless him he must have been worried sick and relieved I had come round. My head and knees (swollen the size of footballs) seem to have taken the full brunt but years later even now I have a ridge on my backside where I was hit. What I didn't know at the time was I had damaged my back as well when the car hit me and was to have lots of bother with it in the Army and in later years (Like now!!!)

However, I was much luckier than my young 16 year old nephew Kieron (my brother Pete's boy), in 1995 he was knocked off his bike while cycling home in Goole, North Humberside and killed, it was a bad time for Peter and us all. On a brighter note

his other son Kevin is a serving WO1 in the RE, doing well, has a lovely family, wife Debbie, two daughters, good lad and has done more than his fair share of tours!!

It was at this point, when I came out of hospital that my Mum decided it was time to go back 'home' to England. What with me and Dad being hurt and my brother John having problems getting a decent artificial leg.

I had just passed my scholarship to go to Sunnybank High School, I had studied hard for that so my parents didn't have to pay for my books etc but never went. I didn't do any schooling for about four months. I got a job with the local baker paying £1 a week delivering bread to the outlying suburbs starting at 4.30am until 5 pm in the evening, very long days and no time for boxing training

I was not very happy and was rebelling on this decision to leave Australia, I ran away from home twice and on one occasion climbed out of the bedroom window down the drain pipe and legged it to Rocklea.. My Mum was the disciplinarian though, not my Dad, she used to have to give me the leather belt regularly, nice size welts on the back legs ... I was caned a few times at school as well round this time, the headmaster used to just catch your finger tips with his cane

We arrived in England in March 1961 travelling over seven weeks by train to Adelaide boarded an Italian ship to Trieste, I think it was something like a 200,000 toner, when we entered the Suez Canal it was thrown around like a rag doll, even the sailors and my Dad (a sailor) were seasick. My Mum was badly injured falling down some stairs, she died later aged 59 from cancer that had apparently been triggered by that fall. From Trieste we climbed aboard a train to Paris then on to Waterloo in London, where we were met by some strange talking locals...Londoners (my Uncles), I didn't understand a word they said during the taxi ride to where we were staying. Due to the housing situation at that time we were split up, I stayed with Uncle Danny in Tottenham, John with Uncle Mick and Peter the youngest with Mum and Dad in Crouch End.

The only thing I remember of those early months is the Tottenham Hotspur Football Club parading the streets in an open top, double decker bus after their FA Championship win. I also got into lots of trouble with the locals and teachers, my uncle would send me to school in uniform, by the time I got to school I had rolled my trousers up, removed my shoes, socks, jacket and tie, needless to say my Uncle Danny sent me packing after about four months, surprised he put up with me that long!!!

School was a real pain, I was ahead in maths, behind in English, didn't know any French or English history, I knew Australian and South African history ... ha .. got on well with the teachers !!

Over the next year we moved a lot, by early 1962 we were living with my Aunt Maureen at Crouch End, we were all in one upstairs room and Dad got a good job in printing at the Sun Newspaper until the Wapping business (Google: 'Wapping Dispute' for info), I got a morning paper round and joined the Army Cadets Force, the only memory I have of the ACF is of the recoil of the 303 rifle knocking me down the slope on the firing range everytime I fired it. By the time I was coming up to my 15th birthday I'd had enough and told Mum and Dad I was joining the Army. After taking the entrance exams and medicals etc, I got my first choice, Vehicle Mechanic REME (you had six choices, I put 3x REME, 3x RE) and started my 3 year apprenticeship at Army Apprentices School Arborfield in September 1962, initial training in Jeepland then moving down to 'B' Company, with final 2 terms in Senior Company. During this time further education, trade training and of course square bashing, with the odd exercise thrown in for good measure (I have a great photo of B Company boys waiting for transport to go on exercise).... And a bit of sport, Boxing, Rugby and Hockey (only did one hockey season though ... too dangerous!). A group of us had a week in *Butlins* at Bognor Regis in summer 1964, as we had our driving licences/cars and petrol was four shillings six pence a gallon, we also used to go ice skating regularly at Streatham Ice Rink in South London.



My mate Tony Heffernan lived just down the road from there, so he knew it well.

When I joined I was nearly 4' 11" and over the next few years I shot up to 5' 3" and a bit! Peter (Ginge) Lainson gave me my nickname, 'Seamus', I think he thought with an Irish surname and an Australian accent I just had to be Seamus, this stuck with me all through my Army career and even now when I meet friends from my Army days. Boots were also a bit of a problem, because I hadn't worn shoes till I was 14 my feet were a bit wide so they put me in size eight boots, I am a size six.

I lost count of the number of times my parents moved in that first 18 months, every time I went on leave it was to a different address, may be they were trying to tell me something. I only found out recently that my poor Mum used to take nerve tablets every time I came home! In late 1963, Mum and Dad moved to Highgate in London and Dad stayed there after Mum died in 1987, right up until he was too poorly to be on his own in 2003. I didn't intend to box initially, I'd had a few cross words with my Dad, he was against me joining the Army, I made silly comments against boxing; however, sometimes things happen to change your mind. I had two fights very early while in training wing (Jeepland), one out of the ring with Ray Gibbons; we ended up being good mates, usual thing, fights after lights out (managed to take a chunk out of my left leg on the iron bed frame). Then another in the ring, this one I lost to a lad in a higher division (I think his name was either Martin or Hewison), I should have beaten him and decided there and then I wasn't going to be beaten again.

I met him in the ring again some months later in the Inter-Company competition and knocked him out in the 3rd round, although I nearly lost again to him...I thought I was winning and said so to my second (Zac Stewart), he said no you're behind on points, when the bell went at the start of the 3rd round I shot across the ring, the poor lad had hardly cleared his stool when I hit him. Then for good measure I hit him a few more times on his way down... his head hit the floor... the doctor was called to the ring to check he was ok, he was but didn't box again.

In B Company I started training hard and soon became a member of the Company and the School Boxing and Rugby teams, gaining my School Colours in both.

As well as Inter-Company competitions, we boxed against other apprentice schools. On one occasion, in Arborfield against Harrogate Apprentices School, their trainer told me his lad hadn't had many fights and could I take it a bit easy on him, like a mug I agreed, he forgot to tell his boxer and in the first round he came out of his corner like a bull, punched me all the way to my corner knocking out my gum shield, so I took him back to his corner and knocked him out.....

I just gave his trainer a nod, I was a bit miffed to say the least. Less than 15 seconds including the count ...

I won the Army Flyweight Championships in 1964 which was held at Oswestry, the atmosphere for the Finals was great with a full house, the spectators looked down on to the ring; lots of officers and pomp. I think I may have got 'fight of the night' for that one too, I usually did. I thought I was the 'bees knees' and when I got home the weekend after I stupidly said to my Dad, 'Come on Dad I'm ready for you now', ha, he only used his left, didn't see it move... at least five times!!! I thought he was an old boy then, he was approaching 40, I decided to wait till he was a bit older. Dad died in 2007 aged 82 (*Boxing News, April 2007* did a really nice write up), I didn't get a chance to have another go, he never seemed to get old enough!

Whilst at Arborfield, I lost two other fights, one was in the Southern Command Championships in Aldershot when I met an Asian lad in the finals who was very fast and beat me on points. I was really disappointed, I was fit and fast but he was fitter and faster!!! The other was an Inter-Services in Portsmouth, we fought the lads at *HMS Collingwood*. They didn't have anybody my weight so I gave away about 9lbs, maybe more and he was at least five inches taller, what they didn't tell me was that my opponent was Scottish ABA Champion. The first round was mine, the second fairly even, but I knew I was in for a scrap in the third round, it was all I could do to stay on my feet ... although we got 'Fight of the Night' my Dad was not impressed when I went home that weekend, I looked as if I had been worked over by a gorilla ... I had ... I have this embarrassing memory of Dad turning up at Arborfield and reading the riot act to my CO. I still cringe at the memory of Dad turning up that day!!!

I also started haircutting in the 6th Division ... by accident, a boxing team friend (surname Young) left his hair cutting clippers with me when he went home on compassionate leave, it soon got round I was in possession of said clippers and I had guys coming round wanting a trim!!! At first I said sorry, I can't do it, but in the end I relented and had a go, then found I had a knack ... by the time he returned I was doing at least 6 trims a night, couple of times a week. I bought the clippers from him and was soon up to about 15, three times a week, which was great as I was only on 10 shillings a week and charged a shilling a haircut. When this had been going on for a while the CSM of B Company called me into his office and asked (jokingly I think) for a cut....of the proceeds, I refused on the grounds of apprentice poverty. Surprisingly, he was ok with that and still went along on parade indicating to anyone who needed a haircut by tapping on their shoulder saying ... O'Sullivan ... O'Sullivan ... O'Sullivan ... As an A/T

Sgt. in 'S' Company (Beaulieu) I was even allocated a haircutting room by the CSM!. I bet you don't get Sgt Major's like that any more .

On the day of my Passing Out Parade, my parents arrived late and missed the parade; however, they did make it eventually and I have a great photo of 62C 'B' Company doing the final march past, me right in the middle of the front rank, I must have been the shortest A/T Sgt ever !!

My first posting from Arborfield in September 1965 to start my 9 year service was 14 Sqn RCT LAD in Bielefeld, with a very good friend Carl Powell (nickname Dick).

Although I had made enquiries over the years I only met Carl again a few years ago at the Arborfield reunion for the first time since we went our different ways. He had hardly changed a bit, would have recognised him anywhere!!

We soon fitted in at 14 Sqn,RCT the LAD and looked after mainly Land Rovers, Jeeps, Bedford RL's and Ford Zephyrs, it was a great first posting for someone interested in sport. We had a good bunch of lads, a few of them were conscripts and they treated us young apprentices well. However, I did have a few funny experiences there with the Recovery Mechanic Harry Harrison who was a wiry 6 footer. Every time he came back after a 'few beers' at about 11-12 o'clock at night he wanted a sparring session, this went on for some weeks, in the end I thought ... right, time to put a stop to this, so when he came for his next fix.... I let fly with a cracking uppercut to his stomach, almost lifted him off his feet, he grunted and said 'good punch Seamus' then carried on Next time I made sure I was out

There was only myself in the LAD interested in boxing initially so I joined the *Vorwarts Boxing Club* in Bielefeld, I trained there at least twice a week. I remember they had Floyd Patterson pictures everywhere, he was greatly admired by us all at that time, a great fighter and was the youngest World Heavyweight Champion; he retired in 1972 at age 37 after losing for the second time to the fantastic Muhammad Ali (Cassias Clay). The gym had a great feel to it... it was a well-equipped and after I had been there a few times they would only let me spar with their Welterweight, I tended to punch a little too hard in training. We had some great sparring sessions, one night, myself and the Welterweight got a bit carried away and we ended up clashing heads, I had a trip to A&E, I had opened up my left eye and needed four stitches. It was less than a week before a competition so unable to compete, my coach was not impressed When it was time to remove the stitches, I was sitting in a chair, the medic removed the stitches, asked if I was ok and said he would be back in five minutes, next thing I know he is lifting me off the floor I had fainted!

I have recently Googled *Vorwarts Boxing Club* and they are still a very successful outfit.

Not long before we were due to fight the Grenadier Guards we had a black guy posted in, he was a very good boxer, a middleweight. He was as fast if not faster than me, what a bit of luck, I trained with him nearly every day before the competition and perfected the duck/crouch, slip the punch, half step in and punch to body followed by hook to chin, it worked well and I won my bout.

If anybody has any photos from the Army Championships in Oswestry in 1964, please let me know I would really appreciate it ... Thanks.

Later on we had a few good boxers in HQ 1(BR) Corps, we had Jock Gallagher ACC Catering Corps, John Thorburn RAOC, the black REME guy and our trainer Jock was from the RCT, both names escape me. Jock was a tough ex lightweight, great guy and good trainer, he got me to the Quarter Finals in

BAOR and trained me for the REME Championships. About this time I also used to do a bit of sparring with one of the Yugoslav civilian workers, a stocky middleweight, he was a good fighter. We also had a Yugoslav girl working in the NAAFI at the time, I asked my sparring partner to teach me Slav patter to chat her up. Not a good idea, she ended up giving me a very hard slap, can't repeat what he taught me, however I still remember the phrase to this day. Looking back, it was very funny, not so at the time.



After getting through the preliminaries at the 1966 REME Championships held at Arborfield, I had a walk over in the finals (can't remember what happened there) and agreed to fight a special contest with Sgt Barima, Ghana Imperial Services Champion, it was a tough fight, I lost on points and although disappointed, the referee congratulated us both for an excellent close fought contest, my Dad thought I had won, it was the only fight my Dad was able to get to see, and I lost!!!!

I went into the Arborfield archives recently and found they only had a shoebox with less than a dozen boxing photos. However, after checking through *The Craftsman* back issues I now have a photo of this fight courtesy of the Craftsman July 1966 and from looking at it I remember I used the similar technique with the Grenadier Guardsman and caught Sgt Barima with a good right hook, I remember his gum shield flying, the ref paused the fight so he could put his gum shield back, gave him time to regain his wits

It was busy around this time, I must have spent some time in the LAD, but it's a bit hazy, I had Harry calling in for his fight fixes and I had another guy calling in for a weekly Chinese visit into Bielefeld about 11 o'clock most Saturday nights, many a time I gave him a crew cut before we went out. We were working through their menu plus we were both interested in Jazz then, so after our Chinese we would wander down to some underground place (can't remember the name.. can anybody help??), there was lots of different groups performing, it was a great experience.

I was also haircutting at least twice a week, I was go-karting most Sundays, I had access to a Land Rover and trailer and as long as I took at least three spectators I was able to store and repair the go-cart in the workshop. I got 4th place in the Grand Prix that year. I was also training as much as possible for boxing and rugby, I played scrum half. How did I fit it all in ... and work?

Terry's excellent article will continue in the next two issues of the magazine. Ed.

Arborfield Old Boys' Association Web Shop

Here we have a few items which we hope are of interest to you. They can be ordered and paid for using Paypal, or credit/debit card. We have added 4% to the prices to cover cost of this service, plus the £1: 50 postage and packing per item. The Web Shop is run by our Honorary Treasure Laurie Blakley, and he will have items available at the reunions.

Ties



Available in original Company Colours
£8 + £1:50 P&P

Lapel Badge



Very attractive Lapel Badge in Black and Gold
Approximately 25 x 20 mm. £3.50 + £1:50 P&P

Also available are a small amount of Blazer
Badges @ £10.60 + £1:50 P&P,
Mugs with the AOBA badge @ £5.88 + £1:50 P&P
Please contact Laurie for overseas postage costs,
and any other enquiries.

I don't know how they wrote this with a straight face. This was an actual memo sent out by IBM to its employees in all seriousness. It went to all field engineers about a computer peripheral problem. The author of this memo was quite genuine. The engineers rolled on the floor! Especially note the last couple of sentences.

"If a mouse fails to operate or should it perform erratically, it may need a ball replacement. Mouse balls are now available as FRU (Field Replacement Units). Because of the delicate nature of this procedure, a replacement of mouse balls should only be attempted by properly trained personnel. Before proceeding, determine the type of mouse balls by examining the underside of the mouse. Domestic balls will be larger and harder than foreign balls. Ball removal procedures differ depending

upon the manufacturer of the mouse. Foreign balls can be replaced using the pop off method. Domestic balls are replaced by using the twist off method. Mouse balls are not usually static sensitive. However, excessive handling can result in sudden discharge.

"Upon completion of ball replacement, the mouse may be used immediately. It is recommended that each person have a pair of spare balls for maintaining optimum customer satisfaction. Any customer missing his balls should contact the local personnel in charge of removing and replacing these necessary items.

"Please keep in mind that a customer without properly working balls is an unhappy customer."



ARBORFIELD OLD BOYS! YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU.

The AOBA urgently needs new members. In order for us to continue as successfully as we currently are, your help is needed to recruit more Arborfield veterans to our Association. So if any of you know of a likely candidate, who is not a member, use all your persuasive powers to get them to join! Your reward will be a year's free membership, well worth it.

Introduce a friend and get ONE Years FREE Membership.

Rhymes of our Tymes

Friendship

It can't be seen, it has no form nor still cannot be heard,
And to some, it means no more than any other word.
But yet it has a power so strong that if it could be sold,
No earthly price would e'er suffice no untold weight of gold.

We, who at a tender age left home and flew the nest
Were fortunate, for we soon found this thing before the rest
Became aware of how it can affect us, heart and soul,
Forever at its mercy, it's perpetual control.

At first we didn't notice as it crept into our lives
As we adjusted in our New World merely to survive,
It's surreptitious presence, very quietly begun,
Meant we were all affected, and submitted, one by one.

It is now only at this stage of life that we can see
What power there is in something that we feel so readily,
That old, familiar feeling that comes flooding back again,
To wrap us in that glow of comfort, so hard to explain.

The freedom, so instinctive, that makes us carry on
With conversations started then, though fifty years have gone.
The feeling all of two score years was just an interlude,
A moments pause to draw a breath while savouring the mood.

It's a pair of old worn slippers that we wear inside our head,
Friendly, comforting and snug, with thoughts and words unsaid,
To make us feel at home again, among our boyhood peers,
Recalling all the larks we had, while rolling back the years.

Of course, it's Friendship that we share; to some, a passing phase,
But not I think, for most of us, who lived those youthful days,
We shared a common lifestyle then, through times of joy and woe,

And now enjoy that Friendship which began so long ago.

It doesn't matter when we served, or how much time has flown,
The comradeship that was born then, still spans the years long gone,
And our exclusive Brotherhood, have learned what time has taught,
That we will always share that thing that never can be bought.

..... True Friendship

Trades

The trades we were taught were really quite fraught with the theory, not practice, I found,
The lads with the brains were the ones who most gained from these lessons on subjects profound.
So Telemechs, Radarmechs, Ecces and such, where the theory was all in the mind,
Meant hands didn't get hurt or covered in dirt, as the Fitters or VM's would find.

They'd sit in their chairs in the workshop from where air conditioners gently would blow,
While the Vehicle Mechs (A) would be toiling all day under great lumps of iron below.
Now the VM's and Fitters, you'd think would be bitter at this blatant trade segregation,
But they never mind, for in grease always find, inexplicably, great satisfaction.

For they spend all their time slaving, covered in grime, faces slippery with sweat and exhaustion,
While the chosen elite, smelling sweet and effete, look at diagrams seeking solution.
But the main satisfaction derives from the action of swinging a hammer precisely,
To know where to hit it, how hard it's permitted, a wallop or just to tap, lightly.

For Fitters, VM's, either (A), (B) or (C), are such macho men, muscular, hairy,
They work, never flag, always deep in the clag where it's only the levels that vary.
But when all's said and done, they are all part of one indispensable military Corps,
Without whom machines and mechanical means of armed conflict could not go to war.
So here's to the tradesmen of all kinds, let's aid them to stay in the lead, good and trusty,
And fervently hope they'll continue to cope, and their spanners may never turn rusty!

2015 Reunion Report

Nineteen sixty five, does not seem that long ago, when so many young lads or more correctly, young men, assembled from all corners of the UK, and in some cases other parts of the world, at an old military camp known as Arborfield in Berkshire. For those lads it would be that Marmite moment, they would either love it or hate it. For those who got to like it, or even enjoy it, it would be life changing, giving them a foundation and a grounding in life, in most cases in a good trade, and financial security for the rest of their lives. And so it came to pass, that on the 18th July 2015, thirty four of the original 1965'ers assembled at Hinckley Island Hotel, in Leicestershire, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the moment that they became members of that elite establishment, The Army Apprentices School Arborfield. A lot of those attending, arrived early, a habit drummed into them since those far off Arborfield days. We waited patiently, some quenching their thirsts, for their rooms to be ready. In my case Anne and I having moved in to our room and unpacked, suits, gowns and anything else that might crease if we left them packed for too long, went and had a sauna, steam and swim before I headed back to form part of the reception committee, to meet other friends as they arrived. As ever the booking in with the welcoming committee, was seamless, name badges issued and checked off the attendees register and we went off for a welcoming beer and caught up with friends and looked for other 65'ers we had not seen for many a year. As usual the evening curry with all the trimmings was consumed with, in some cases, copious amounts of ale, wines and spirits. The Hinckley staff at the hotel does a brilliant job and produces a great curry evening every year. Catching up with old friends, faces remembered, but changed by the passing of years, sometimes beyond obvious recognition, makes time fly by until the bar becomes deserted as those who must recharge themselves for the early breakfast and coach ride to the NMA, disappear to their beds.



We got up and consumed breakfast with lots of juices, tea and coffee, for what promised to be a hot day ahead, and to assist with the hangovers. The coaches, loaded up without problems, left Hinckley and were taken to the NMA where we were set free to find much needed loos and refreshments, until the appointed hour when we were required to form up for the parade. This year our parade was under the control of SSgt Scott Brash and SSgt Danny Field both REME of course. David (Tich) Schofield 65A led the parade, just ahead of Ian Tilson 62A our standard bearer and considering it was David's first year leading the march past, he did a sterling job of it.

The West Midland Fire Service Pipe Band, provided the stirring music and the beat for the feet of the Old Boys march past led by the senior division for the year, 65'ers. Everyone did look good, according to the reviewing officer and those watching the parade, from the side lines.

This year's reviewing officer was Col. Ron Medley of 65A and A/T RSM. After taking the salute he inspected those on parade, having a brief word with some, before moving on. Shortly, after the



parade, the drum head service was held at the Apprentices' memorial. The service was conducted by Rev Bev 66A, who must have had a word upstairs, as the weather this year was outstanding unless one hates the heat, but for most, a very welcome change from the very wet weather that we had in 2014. Following the drumhead service most made their way to the lunch venue where we had our preselected choice of food, main course, dessert and hot drink served to us. Then those who wished to see some of the memorials at the arboretum, took time out to stroll around the pathways, meadows and woodland walks, reflecting at some of the memorials and taking photographs of their favourites. It was good to see that the REME memorial has now been refurbished and is befitting of the Corps of REME. All too soon we were ushered back to our coaches

All too soon we were ushered back to our coaches to make the return journey to our hotel in time to attend the AGM, and to ready ourselves for our evening's festivities. The evening event started with a gathering for drinks in the atrium, before all the "Old Boys" were piped into dinner by Alex Burt 62A, followed soon after by those 65'er celebrants, who formed up and were led in with Alex piping and leading from the front.

Our dinner on the evening was, as usual, well



presented, cooked and delivered without a day delay. Our celebration tables were decorated with skill and artistry, and looked really good. We had an excellent choice of red and white

wines at the table which were enjoyed by those who attended. As the level of wine went down the volume of the celebrants increased, until this year's

speaker Lt Col. Gorge Henderson MBE 65C, entertained us with reminiscent thoughts of yesteryear and a few quips.

Our Vice Chairman Lt. Col. Bill Cleasby 61C presented a silver salver to our retiring Chairman, Col. Brian Hutchins 61B – but not before taking the opportunity of thanking Brian for the years of support and leadership he has given the Association. He stated that without Brian's leadership and dedication the Association would not be in the strong position it is today.

Bill Cleasby also presented a Whiskey decanter set to our retiring Web Master John (Herbie) Coles, who had managed the website so very well for the last 4 years and seen the site develop to its popularity it enjoys today. Late into the night, after the bar had closed, and after all the wine and port had been mine swept away, we said our farewells to all those friends, regularly seen and those not seen for many a year. We made our way back to our rooms, some by longer routes than necessary, to sleep and to gather again for a farewell breakfast in the morning.

Breakfast was a relatively quiet meal, due to the amount of hungover bodies, that appeared quietly and said there farewells to fellow ex-apprentices and their partners, before dispersing from Hinckley.

I am sure that we will all look forward to returning to the reunion again in July next year. As we say we will see you, in the usual place at the usual time - God willing!

David Brock 65B





**Arborfield Old Boys Association
Buffet Night
Friday 17th July 2015**





Saturday Morning Reunion Parade National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas 18th July 2015







Drumhead Service held at the Army Apprentice National Memorial



All photographs kindly supplied by Andy Knowles, Dave Cosway, Neil Turrell, and Max Warwick.

Arborfield Old Boys Association AGM and Dinner





The Arborfield Apprentice School Award Boards

Over a period of time I followed, with great interest, the bulletins posted on AOBA forum cataloguing the progress by AOBA members, mainly committee members, to locate or discover the fate of the above boards.

In 2012 I offered to help in the search but did not get involved in making any contacts as I believed it best for this to come from the one known source.

Things were moving along, sometimes with long periods in between contacts, with little information getting back to AOBA members. By Jan 2015 I found I was alone in the search and the general feeling was the boards had been lost for all time. How, why and where nobody knew.

I decided to start again from the beginning with our REME museum and work out from there. There were problems here too with the closure of Arborfield Garrison and the planned move to Lyneham in 2015. It was a busy time for the whole Garrison and to ask them to help in the search gave them extra pressure they could do without. On the other hand it might work in our favour as everything was being listed and crated.

I have documented my search and, to date, I have 16 pages of bullet points listing the 49 people contacted, 94 emails, 37 phone calls and 52 posts placed on social media. Where possible I have tried to keep AOBA members informed via the forum. The most significant points are included below.

There have been a number of versions of The Award Boards:

Mk1: AAS The two originals with the names painted on the black back board. Missing.

Mk2: AAS/C similar to Mk1 with slide in name tablets. In museum.

Mk3: The two PMC as Mk2 with PMC Title. Missing.

Mk4: AAC (post PMC) as Mk3 with additional awards. In museum.

I have pictures of Mk's. 1, 2 and 3 in Hazebrouck and Mk 4 in museum.

Oct 2012: Alan Jones AJ posted on AOBA forum for any ideas on Boards' location. A number of leads were received including a sighting, by Ray Stevens (RS), at PMC in 1987 and their possible removal to Depot or COD Burghfield. Al Shaw remembered them when he was there in 90C.

Dec 2012: Two members were checking if they were at Larkhill.

Sept 2013: John Coles 'Herbie' reported they may have gone to RAOC Depot Bramley – The actual shed at Bramley was identified. In Jan 2014, Alec Powell (AP) reported the Boards were moved to Bramley Depot in 1995. (1996?) He contacted Bramley Depot and was told no REME artifacts were deposited there. The person i/c started there in 2003 and the 'stuff' moved out went to RAOC (RLC) museum DEEPCUT. AP's next call was to contact archivist at RLC museum DEEPCUT. The archivist was investigating but no further update was received.

Jul 2014: Bill Cleasby (BC) when 'Poking around' at REME museum, looking for Drum Head Service Drums, found a number of Honour Boards, not the originals but the later versions. A search at DEEPCUT will commence when AP finds a volunteer to help.

Sept 2014: Andy Kennedy (AK) 'Madtyke' posted on FACEBOOK his hopes that the Old School Gates would not be lost, like the boards, after their move from Arborfield.

Sept 2014: REME museum, having heard of the search, posted "We do have a number of boards and plaques from the old Apprentice College".

Sept 2014: AP will speak to David Schofield (DS) and contact REME museum.

Jan 2015 the point where we started again at REME museum.

Jan 16th 2015: AJ contacted REME museum by telephone.....a volunteer there gave examples of boards in their catalogue..... He would get curator Jennifer Allison (JA) to contact AJ.

Jan 21st 2015: Curator JA called AJ.....We went through history of search, they have five boards but by the names and descriptions they are likely to be the later versions.

Jan 22nd 2015: DS confirmed that BC located these boards some time ago and are not the originals.....but replacements. He includes a letter from BC stating these are not the originals, they are smaller and go back to early 60's. The names slide into holders. He was aware of them and had mentioned them at odd management meetings. They are stored in Bld. 66.

Jan 23rd 2015: DS reported that he spoke to an ex A/T from 1996, when waiting for a course at SEE, the A/T was on the working party that removed the boards from hall in PMC, placed them on a truck and took them to Bramley.

Jan 23rd 2015: AP reported that after contact with DEEPCUT, the RLC museum archivist had passed on his request for a visit to museum curator and she has replied after checking records and also a physical check of the stores the boards are not there.

The curator considered that a visit was not necessary.

Jan 26th 2015: AJ contacts REME museum curator (JA) to ask her to contact RLC curator to arrange for us to visit. The idea being that one of us would recognise the boards if seen.

Feb 2nd 2015: REME museum curator JA replies, she has been in touch with RLC museum and is happy with their reply and sees no reason for a visit.

Feb 2nd 2015: AJ asked curator JA to contact REME museum at Bordon. Also asked curator to let us know when boards in Bld. 66 are clear for viewing. Reply from Bordon (Feb 4th) was, no boards there.

Feb 3rd 2015: AJ posted on "Army Mates Where Are They Now" FACEBOOK page for anyone with connections to CAD Bramley/Deepcut around 96 and after.

Feb 7th 2015: AJ posts on RAOC FACEBOOK page, as above, six replies.

Feb 19th 2015: AJ contacted RLC museum, through our museum, they have assured us they did not remove anything from Bramley.

Feb 22nd 2015: AJ contacted REME museum once more, asking to visit as soon as possible to check the boards that had been reported by BC and that the curator had described in her email of 21st Jan: 5 large wooden boards all pertaining to be Major Awards and headed Army Apprentice School. A possible viewing date was thought to be in March but this has been delayed to summer 2015.

Feb 23rd 2015: AJ posted on AOBA and Arborfield f/b asking for details of PMC move back to Rowcroft. Herbie JC.....identified new buildings and their names with pics.

Mar 7th 2015: AJ tries to contact a number of ex Arborfield Apprentices (Non friends or group members) via 'private message'. FACEBOOK block message sending for 7 days, this on top of a 'lockout' on Feb 12th 2015 for similar offence. Proof of ID required before 'lockout' lifted. Old army ID card very useful and they accepted it.

Mar 15th 2015: AJ 'Open Post' on Arborfield f/b asking for any info on Boards at Rowcroft, Brian Hutchins (BH) recalls seeing his name on the boards in Rowcroft lecture theatre centre, on both sides of large screen, during a senior officers' conference (sometime 1993/96) he believed to be originals as his name was included. (Apr 64)

Mar 21st 2015: Contacted by Trevor 52A with possible search areas around Rowcroft.

Mar 23rd 2015: BH hears back from Peter Gibson (PG) Commandant AAC 91/94. He suggested we should contact Mike Dorward, Commandant 94/95 and Bob Mount Commandant 95/96. Also try Taff Cullen OIC Mgmt Svcs/QM.

Mar 26th 2015: AJ contacts Wokingham B.C. and Land Reg in Coventry and then makes contact with Helen Puddle (HP) at CREST NICHOLSON in Chertsey. (Arborfield Landowners Consortium) to enquire as to contents of Rowcroft buildings-

particularly the Education/office block. HP very interested in history of Rowcroft. The site manager will check buildings for boards. He reported back, nothing was found. HP would pass on my details to Garrison FM.

Apr 7th 2015: AJ received telephone answered message without any name or contact detail saying they did not have any boards from Rowcroft and any material may have gone to Harrogate. AJ contacts The Harrogate Association through its member Joe Flynn (JF) 55A. I then received email from JF suggesting two further committee contacts.....the cttee chairman and sec. Email sent to them on Apr 9th.

Apr 9th 2015 email from 'Trevor 52A' regarding the "Wheel" badge being kept alive at ATFC Winchester, slim chance boards went there too. AJ contacted ATFC Winchester, gave all the details to Capt. O. North. QM there for 17yrs. Very interested, recalls talk of a list arriving of kit to accept/reject, not sure from where or when. He had a look at the boards on display. (Cookhouse and C Coy REME Section.) Needs to speak to others but will make contact.

Apr 12th 2015: Reply received from Col. (Retd) Cliff Walters, Commandant Harrogate 95 that they were unable to help.

Apr 13th 2015: AJ contacts AFC Harrogate, gave all the details to Major Y. Cauldwell. QM. Very interested, will carry out a search and contact us.

Apr 14th 2015: AJ contacted WO1 Graham King, Garrison QM. Who cleared remaining buildings on Rowcroft ready for hand over. Not aware of any boards being removed from Education Block. Will look into whether they were moved elsewhere if museum was lacking storage space. He was asked to check SEE route.

Apr 16th 2015: Email rec'd from BH to say, after management meeting in Arborfield, a visit was arranged to REME museum to check boards in Bld. 66. The originals were not there. BH suggest we contact Mike Dorward and Taff Cullen. AJ traces (MD) via phone book and makes contact with him on May 6th. He is very surprised to hear boards were taken to Bramley. No reason for that. He thinks Bob Mount may have more info.

Apr 21st 2015: AJ contacts Clive Garaway 95A via f/b, has a reunion in near future will ask there for any pics/info on boards.

Apr 26th 2015: AJ contacts Lee Lawson 94C via f/b, unable to help but supplies two more names of REME members still serving.

May 8th 2015: AJ contacts Hayley at REME Association and Rick Henderson (RH) at REME museum.

May 13th 2015: Contact made with Taff Cullen (TF) phone number in phone book. Has no idea why boards would have gone to Bramley. He is sure there must have been an RAOC/RLC officer involved for them to have been moved there. He also thought the civilian store man, at Arborfield, around that time would be able to help. Not sure of his

name.

May 15th 2015: AJ contacts, via pm, Andrew Nicholls 94C Bailleul Sgts. mess. Will check for boards and let us know.

May 18th 2015: AJ contacts a number of people in Deepcut Barracks, through RAOC Association. Spoke to Lt.Col Steve Tinlin (ST) QM. Will carry out check and get back to us. Replied (May 21st) has checked all messes, upper/lower schools and Command Wing. No boards found. Did give me QM for 91/96 Maj R. B. Hobson. MBE. With the help of another Harrogate/Chepstow ex boy and London Gazette, found Lt.Col Barry Hobson MBE.

May 27th 2015: After placing post on "Where Are They Now" f/b page AJ contacted Chris Dickson RQMS Deepcut 95/98. He has faint recollections of dealings with Bramley when it closed and something about "Prestige" boards. He listed where he would have stored them if they arrived.

June 5th 2015: AJ phones Lt.Col Steve Tinlin with news on "Prestige" boards and storage location. He was sure they were no longer there as records had all been changed over to a new system in Feb 2015. A further check would be made.

June 11th 2015: Email sent to RH, Director REME museum, requesting him to ask a Director of RLC museum for help in tracing boards there. Reply RLC (June 12th) they stressed again the boards are not and never have been part of their collection. June 11th 2015: AJ rec'd email, from Pat Nulty (PN), after post on f/b he knows TC and Bob Mount (BM). He will forward my details through a relative to BM.

June 17th 2015: Telephone call to Alan Webster (AW), Mgmt/Svcs Arborfield, asking after civilian store man QM stores up to 99/00. His name is John Bahia, retired to Andover area after Arborfield. AW suggested I contact Mike Whittington (MW).

June 18th 2015: Reply from MW, has no contact now with JB. He, MW, did mention that Bramley had at

one point been used as RAOC/RLC "Back loading depot for accommodation stores". Not good news for boards as he believes they would have been funded from Unit funds, not public funds, therefore not listed in accommodation ledgers. He suggested I contact Lt.Col Keith Wilder, ex QM 2i/c ATFC up to draw down in 2003/04. KW then moved on to Bordon SEME QM. AJ has sent email to an old email address listed. No reply 3rd Aug.

June 19th 2015: AJ finds a number of addresses in Andover area connected to the name Bahia.

June 20th 2015: AJ attempts to make contact with Chris Carolan CC, via PMC f/b page.

June 27th 2015: AJ obtains, with the help of another ex boy, a telephone number to one

address in Southampton listed as Mr. Bahia. After many attempts no contact is made.

July 8th 2015: AJ travels to Southampton, Mr. Bahia is still living there according to neighbour.....Message and details left with neighbour to pass on.....On return home (July 13th) message received from neighbour, he has spoken to Mr. Bahia, there are no connections with military.

July 13th 2015: Detailed reply received from Maj. Y. Cauldwell QM. Harrogate (See Apr 13) He has gone way beyond what I expected, a thorough search for sure but to no avail unfortunately.

July 13th 2015: Reply received from James Chadwick JC. He knows TC lives in Cardiff and has contact details, has not heard from Bob Mount for some time but will ask around.

July 15th/19th: AJ tries to contact CC through two of his contacts/friends on PMC f/b. No reply to date.

July 29th 2015: AJ locates possible contact details for Bob Mount in Southport, no phone number, letter sent by post asking for it to be forwarded if no longer resident there.

DATE OF THIS SUMMARY 3rd AUGUST 2015.

As of this summary date I still have a few details to complete. There are a number of people out there who may have the information that may lead us to the boards or what did happen to them back in 1996. John Bahia being one or any member of the working party detailed to move the boards from Hazebrouck Barracks to Bramley Camp. If they went as part of accommodation stores to Bramley on that day, it doesn't look good. I am told all fixtures and fittings were being moved from Hazebrouck to Rowcroft, why would REME artifacts go to Bramley?

I intend to keep looking, the more people who know we are looking the better. Anyone out there with further information please contact me, I am happy to do the work if given the information, Al Jones 61B, on alglomollie@sky.com or 07759597155.

THE ARBORFIELD OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION **(AOBA)** **MINUTES OF THE 52nd ANNUAL GENERAL** **MEETING**

HELD ON SATURDAY 18th July 2014

Committee Members Present:

Colonel B G J Hutchins and Lieutenant Colonel M Tizard. Chairman

Lieutenant Colonel IWJ Cleasby MBE Vice Chairman

Mr L Blakley Honorary Treasurer

Mr A Powell Honorary Membership Registrar

Mr J Coles Honorary Web Master

Mr R Stevens Honorary OBAN Secretary

Mr D Cosway Honorary Data Base Manager

Mr R. Castell Honorary Recruiting Sgt

Mr D J Schofield Honorary Secretary

Item 1 Chairman's Welcome Address

1. The Chairman opened the AGM at 1630 hours and welcomed the 88 members present. He was delighted to see so many members at the meeting.

Item 2 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 51st AGM.

2. It was confirmed that the previous minutes were a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Proposed: Jim Gardner 57A

Seconded: Nick Ballard 67A

Decision: Carried

Item 3 Matters Arising from the 50th AGM

3a Item 9 Benevolence

The Honorary Secretary sent £625 to both Combat Stress and REME Benevolent Funds and the Chairman read letters of thanks received from them to the AGM

Item Closed.

3b Item 10 Constitution

The Honorary Secretary confirmed the agreed changes had been made to the constitution and an up-to-date copy was available to view on the Associations website. Item closed.

3c Item 13 Reunion Venues and dates

The Honorary Secretary confirmed the association has confirmed bookings at both the hotel and NMA for the third weekend in July every year on a rolling two year basis. As such 2016 is currently fixed and 2017 required confirmation at this meeting; Item Closed.

Item 4 Chairman's Report.

4. The Chairman welcomed all members to the 52nd AGM. And introduced all the committee members to the meeting

He stated yet again it was very sad to hear the names of so many of our comrades on this year's Roll of Honour.

He took the opportunity of thanking the Reviewing Officer Colonel Ron Medley 65A

He asked the meeting to openly discuss the current name of the association given the feedback received from younger apprentices. He said this would be discussed in some detail later in the meeting.

With sadness he confirmed this would be his last AGM as our Chairman and that the past years had been a pleasure and an honour to represent the Association as Chairman.

He took the opportunity of thanking all members of the committee for all the work undertaken in pursuit of the AOBA aims.

Item 5 Honorary Treasures Report

5. The Honorary Treasurer presented his report to the AGM. He spoke about the audited expenditure and income account for 2014. The Honorary Treasurer then spoke about the proposed budget for 2016 and the anticipated income against expenditure.

He reported the association was having some difficulty in claiming the inland revenue tax rebate due to the incompatibility with the Data Base fields and the information from Inland Revenue. Ian Clark 62A offered to assist in merging the two data bases, as he has considerable experience with these matters. The floor gratefully accepted his offer of help.

The Honorary Treasurer asked for AGM approval for the 2014 AOBA account, Proposed: David Brock 65B

Seconded: David Naylor 55A

Decision: Carried unanimously

Item 6 AOBA Benevolence

6 The Honorary Secretary report the AOBA not used any funds in support of needy Apprentices and or their families As a result of this the committee recommended the sum of £2000 be donated to the 'Chairman's Charity'.

Set up each year and sanctioned by the membership 'The Chairman's Charity' would be the nominated charity(ies) the AOBA primarily supports that year. It is suggested by The AOBA Committee that for 2015 the Chairman's Charity(ies) should be both Combat Stress and Blind Vets UK

It was proposed by Neil Turrell 62A and seconded by Gordon Bonner 49B the Chairman's Charities be accepted and that for 2015 these should be Combat Stress and Blind Vets UK and that each should receive £1000.

Carried Unanimously

Item 7 OBAN Editors Report

7. The Honorary OBAN Editor presented his report to the Meeting. Main points were:

- a. I would like to thank everyone who have sent in articles, please keep them coming. Also send photographs separately, do not embed them within your text. Remember, without your articles there will not be an OBAN.
- b. The message is – More Photographs PLEASE.

Item 8 Honorary Membership Registrars Report

8. The Honorary Membership Registrar presented his report to the AGM.

At this point in the minutes there is a diagram of the number of new members joining. Unfortunately I cannot reproduce it in this document. Ed.

Item 9 Honorary Recruiting Sgts' Report

9 The Honorary Web Master presented his report to the Meeting. Main points were:

- a) There is a lack of new members in the 80s and 90s and somehow this needs to be addressed ...as this slide shows..
- b)
- c) In an effort to increase numbers the following action is being taken.
 - a) Recruiting leaflets
 - b) Social media
 - c) Recruiting posters
 - d) Forces Reunited
 - e) Recruiting notices
 - f) Bordon Farewell to Garrison

Item 8 – The

Item 10 AOBA Constitution

10 The Honorary Secretary reported there are no changes to the Constitution this year however went on to say the committee have a responsibility to report a significant and important feedback from a number of disaffected Arborfield Apprentices... which if acted upon will require a change to the Constitution....

According to this feedback it would seem there is a blockage on recruiting lads from the 80s/90s and to a lesser extent the 70s

It would seem this blockage is in the name of our Association

Specifically the term

'Old Boys'

Following this information the meeting held an in-depth discussion with all members actively engaging in dialogue. The pros and cons of changing the name and staying as is was debated at length.

The Chairman suggested the matter was far too important to make any final discussions at this meeting but called for a 'vote of interest' giving some direction to help the committee in considering what should be the next step.

Thus a vote was taken in favour of some change and the results were as follows

45 in favour of change

39 against change

4 abstentions

Given the closeness of this vote the Chairman suggested the committee should discuss this in some depth and report back at the next AGM where the matter would be tabled together with any favoured new name plus the full cost implications of any name change. At that meeting following a full debate, a formal proposal will be made regarding any possible name change, or not, and the matter decided.

Item 11 Cenotaph Parade 2013

11. Jim Gardner 57A spoke to the AGM about the Cenotaph Parade weekend including the dinner at the Victory Services Club. The 2014 weekend was a great success meeting up with other friends including 144 Para Ambulance for the Saturday dinner. For 2015 the Association has been allocated 18 tickets for the parade. Any member wishing to attend the parade or the Saturday night dinner in the Victory Services Club should contact Jim Gardner to book their place. He took this opportunity of thanking the Chairman for carrying out the role of Parade Commander over the years and welcomed Mike Tizard 76B2 into that role.

Item 12 Management Committee Appointments

12.

Election of New Chairman

Our Chairman, Brian Hutchins 61B has been involved with committee matters since 1995 when he joined the committee as Vice Chairman and Parade Commander. In 2007 he was elevated to our Chairman. Now he has decided the time has come to stand down, leaving the Association in a strong and secure position.

As such your committee asked for nominations to succeed Brian and we can report.....

Mike Tizard 76B2 is nominated for Chairman by
Nigel Canning 77C and seconded by John Darwent 77C

The meeting wholeheartedly agreed with this nomination and unanimously voted in approval.

The New Chairman took up his post and put forward for approval by the AGM his selection for committee appointments for 2015/6:

Vice Chairman
Lt Col Bill Cleasby MBE (61C)

Honorary Secretary
Mr David Schofield (65A)

Honorary Treasurer
Mr Laurie Blakley 61B

Honorary Registrar
Mr Alec Powell (64C)

Honorary Editor OBAN
Mr Ray Stevens (64C)

Honorary Webmaster
Mr Mark Jobes 77C

Honorary Recruiting Officer
Mr Bob Castell (64C)

Honorary Data Base Officer
Mr Dave Cosway (65C)

Remembrance Nominated Member
Mr Jim Gardner (57A)

Bereavement Nominated Member
Mr Roger Traves (57A)

He took this opportunity of thanking the membership for their vote of confidence and reported that he would be maintaining very close contact with all within REME and the move to Lynham. Additionally he thanked John Coles for all his work as Webmaster and welcomed Mark Jobes 77C into the role.

Proposed: Gordon Bonner 49B
Seconded: Tony Church 55A
Decision: Carried unanimously

Item 13 Reunion

The Honorary Secretary asked if anyone had any other suggestions for the reunion on 2017, or should we return as is.

It was discussed if it would be possible to move at some stage to Lynham and the Chairman suggested this would be logistically impossible, however it might be possible at some time in the future to arrange a day visit and he would keep in contact with Lynham to this end.

The meeting then confirmed the 2017 reunion as the third weekend in July 2017. Same format and same hotel.

Item 14 Any Other Business

Ian Tilson 62A asked the meeting if the Association could support the Army Apprentice Memorial annual meeting in May.

The general feeling of the meeting was this is exactly the kind of thing we should be doing and every effort will be made to support this event.

Item 15 Valedictory

On behalf of the Association The Vice Chairman took the opportunity of thanking Brian Hutchins as he stood down as our chairman after many years of sterling work and said that without his support it is very doubtful the Association would be in such a strong position as it currently enjoys.

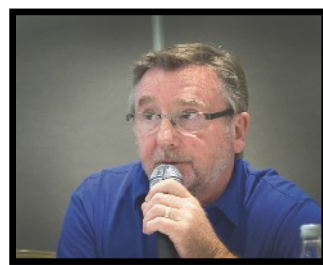
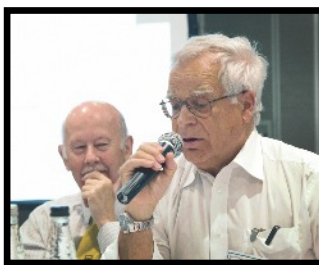
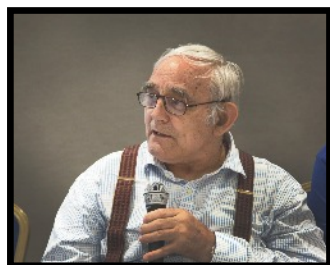
He further thanked John Coles for his wonderful work with the Associations website and confirmed the visibility of the site in the internet was a result of John's outstanding commitment over the years.

Secretary

Mr. DJ Schofield

Chairman

Lt.Col . M. Tizard.



Most of the AOBA Committee Members.

A big earthquake with the strength of 8.1 on the Richter scale hits the Middle East.

Two million Muslims die and over a million are injured.

Iraq, Iran and Syria are totally ruined and the governments don't know where to start with providing help to rebuild.

The rest of the world is in shock.

The USA is sending troops to help keep the peace.

Saudi Arabia is sending oil.

Latin American countries are sending clothing.

New Zealand and Australia are sending sheep, cattle and food crops.

The Asian countries are sending labour to assist in rebuilding the infrastructure.

Canada is sending medical teams and supplies.

GREAT BRITAIN, not to be outdone, is sending two million replacement Muslims.

God Bless Great Britain...

An older lady named Ida was somewhat lonely since her cat died and decided she needed another pet to keep her company. So, off to the pet shop she went. She searched and searched. None of the pets seemed to catch her interest, except this ugly frog. As she walked by the jar he was in, she looked and he winked at her.

He whispered,

'I'M LONELY, TOO. BUY ME AND TAKE ME HOME. YOU WON'T EVER BE SORRY.'

Ida figured, what the heck! She hadn't found anything else. So she bought the frog. She placed him in the car, on the front seat beside her.

As she was slowly driving down the road, the frog whispered to her

'KISS ME AND YOU WON'T BE SORRY..!'

So, Ida figured, WHAT THE HECK, and kissed the

frog.

IMMEDIATELY the frog turned into an absolutely gorgeous, sexy, young, handsome prince.

THE PRINCE THEN RETURNED IDA'S KISS.

SUDDENLY IDA FELT HERSELF

TRANSFORMING FROM HIS KISS. NOW

CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IDA TURNED INTO?

COME ON GUESS!

SHE TURNED INTO

the first Holiday Inn

SHE COULD FIND!!!

She's old..... NOT DEAD!

OLD LADIES ROCK

These three old ladies and their dogs were sitting on a park bench having a

quiet conversation when a flasher approached from across the park. The

flasher came up to the ladies, stood right in front of them and opened his

trench coat.

Gertrude

immediately had a stroke.

Then

Maude also had a stroke.

But

Tillie, being older and more feeble,

couldn't

reach that far.

Looking for all Instrument Technicians

I am an ex Instrument Artificer, serving between 1977 and 1999, for the last 6 years I was an ASM.

I have taken it upon myself to try and trace and record all of the individuals who served in the Instrument Trade Group in REME, together with those who went on to become Artificers. I want to go back as far as I can - and record it all into an open source document. Attached is a draft, lots of work left to do. Although I have made good progress and identified many hundreds of instrument trade veterans to date.

I am interested in getting in touch with all Arborfield Old Boys who qualified as Instrument Technicians/Mechanics in REME. I would like to record which apprentice intake individuals were on, who was on their course. Same for artificer courses. Photo's will be a huge plus.

Within the document I am also planning to provide details of all Instructors at Arborfield, Carlisle and Bordon.

With the help of some colleagues, we are beginning to plan an Instrument Trade reunion, hopefully at Lyneham in the new Corps Mess. Someone has also offered to try and arrange a look around the old Instrument Section at SEME on the same date as the Garrison Farewell Parade at Bordon on 27th June 2015.

I was hoping you could post my words above into your forum, with a request for instrument trade veterans to contact me so I can pick their brains and further complete the jigsaw puzzle.

Please note, I am in Australia, so there will be some delay in replying to folks.

Regards, Dave
Dave Knowles
Tel Mobile : +61 417 754 933+61 417 754 933
Tel Home : +61 397 59 664
davidknowles@zoho.com

Looking for all Aircraft Technicians

Calling Arborfield Old Boys, were you at the Army Apprentice College in the 1960's and 70's training to become an REME Aircraft Technician? Whether you specialised as Airframe and Engine, Electrics and Instruments or Radio, if you were trained on the Beaver aircraft David Kellock would like to hear from you.

is keen to include the stories from the background boys who kept this wonderful aircraft flying. He would like to hear from anyone who has a story to tell about the Beaver aircraft whether during training or in service.

The picture is of Beaver XP806 during its flying days in Aden. It crashed whilst landing on 16th September 1970 and on its return to the UK, it was found to be beyond repair and so became an instructional airframe at Arborfield. It remained at Princess Marina College until 1990 and then it became a gate guard at Middle Wallop, strangely painted with the registration letters XP822 in place of XP806. It was sold into private hands in 1994 and is currently in the USA awaiting restoration. Hopefully one day XP806 will be flying again.

David Kellock can be contacted at davidkellock@live.co.uk or by post at:-

David M Kellock



David is compiling a book on the history of the Beaver AL Mk1 aircraft in British Army service and

1 Heswall Avenue
Withington

In Memoriam

Richard de Barry Barnett 52B

Richard, son of Diane and Henry de Barry Barnett, was born on 12th February, 1937, in Holloway, Islington - I hasten to add that the birth did not take place anywhere near the infamous prison !

He joined the Army as an apprentice tradesman, 1952 - 1956, at the Army Apprentices School, Arborfield, and then went on to serve in REME from 1956 - 1977, working in the field of telecommunications.

After apprentice training he served in BAOR, Hong Kong, the UK, Kuwait and Singapore.

On leaving the services in 1977, he settled firstly in Wokingham, working for the firm Lucas Marine on telecommunications, in the post of Senior Engineer (Experimental), visiting companies such as Plessey and others of a similar nature. It was during this time that he kept in touch with some of his ex-apprentice buddies and tradesmen by way of e-mail and Skype.

Eventually he gave up working for someone else and set up his own business in Southampton carrying out wiring and electrical work for vessels competing in the Around the World Yacht races.

By this time he owned his own 24 foot Westerly Yacht called 'Lady Lynet', combining his work with the passion for sailing.

He finally settled in Wiveliscombe, Somerset.

His other hobbies were modern jazz and gardening but he wasn't renowned for playing any musical instruments.

With regards gardening, he continued an avid interest in the subject so much so that later in life he ended up as head gardener for Langley House Hotel (he happened to be the only gardener) followed by becoming a member of Wiveliscombe Horticultural Society for some 20 years and also serving as their President for 4 years.

In May 1994, Richard and Heather kept their contacts with service life by joining the organisation, The Old Grey Horse Club, which was based at Northampton. This small club was formed by a group of founder members who were retired ex-REME senior NCO's and, in certain cases, retired ex-commissioned officers who had progressed through the ranks.

Richard proved to be a keen and enthusiastic member and, together with wife Heather produced many lively, interesting accounts of

their holiday travels around the world. Prolific travellers, the articles produced proved to be interesting and extremely entertaining.

They remained members until the Club disbanded in November 2011.

In addition, attending both the AOBA and REME Association annual functions was always high on their list.

In later years Richard was unfortunate to experience heart problems so that in the end he had to have a pacemaker fitted. Not to be deterred by this, he was always cheerful, the perfect gentleman and still liked his pint !

Poor health finally got the better of him and he passed away on Friday 10th April, 2015.

The funeral service was held at Taunton Dean Crematorium, Wellington New Road, Taunton on 22nd April, 2015. There were 124 of his friends and colleagues who attended the service and the impressive sum of £700 (plus some loose change) was donated to 3 charities, namely the Wiveliscombe Rugby Club, the Wiveliscombe Horticultural Society and the Brompton Ralph Cricket Club.

Richard leaves his widow Heather, children Ute, Alice & David, plus grandson Tim.

A pleasant man, liked by all, he will be sorely missed.

Kaye Gilpin (52B)



Dave Hicks 64A

It is with regret that I have to report the death of David 'Taff' Hicks (64A) on the 3rd March 2015

David joined the Army Apprentice School in January 1964, to train as a vehicle mechanic, where we became good friends. As my parents were abroad he would often invite me home with him at weekends to his home in Milford Haven. After passing out from Arborfield in late 1966 he was posted to Larkhill and whilst there time completed two tours with the U.N. in Cyprus.



He married his wife Sally in Birmingham in 1969 and they then lived in Southend where Dave was posted to the Proof & Experimental Establishment at Shoeburyness.

David left the Army in 1973 when his daughter Louise was two years old and he and Sally moved to South Wales, their son Paul was born four years later.

John Frederick Northam 47A

John came from an extended military family background. His father, E.F.W. Northam retired from the REME as a Major and so it was no surprise that John enrolled into boy service in 1947 at the Exeter recruiting office (aged 14) and then completed more than 28 years army service before retiring in 1975.

After attending the army technical school at Arborfield, John transferred to REME himself as a fitter and completed his Artificer training in 1957. He was subsequently trained in works study at the Royal Military College and saw

He then worked in the oil industry on the same site over the next thirty seven years during which time their children married and had children of their own, Alex, Rhys and Ben. Dave and Sally also had a granddaughter Bethany. David eventually retired in 2012

In February 2014 Dave was diagnosed with a grade 4 brain tumour, glioblastoma, the most aggressive and malignant type. During the

months that followed he had thirty radio therapies, six months of chemotherapy and a D.V.T. that left him with a loss of mobility down his right side. He never once complained or asked 'why me?' and suffered it all with great dignity. He died at home with all his family round him, which is as he would have wanted it as home and family was his whole life.

His funeral was at St Katherine's & St. Peter's Church, where he and Sally regularly attended Sunday services, and it was literally standing room only. After the service everyone gathered at the Royal British Legion Club.

I first met David again, after leaving Arborfield in 1966, at another sad occasion, the funeral of Keith Dyball in May 2012, after which David joined the AOBA and attended the 2013 reunion, which he much enjoyed, sadly he was too ill to come to our 50th anniversary reunion the following year. He loved both meeting up with us 64A boys and the AOBA, and was buried wearing his Association tie.

Good bye Taff, God bless.

Bob Castell 64A

service in Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore during this time.

Also in 1957 and by now a S/Sgt. John met and married June in Harwich. Shortly after their wedding they were posted to Cyprus where their two children Christopher and Suzanne were born.

Whilst back at home in 1963 John was promoted to WOII which preceded postings to Malaya, Singapore and BAOR before finally arriving permanently back in the UK with the rank of WOI (ASM) in 1972 and finally retiring from the forces in 1975 when his service conduct was noted as 'Exemplary'.

These service notes (handwritten by the OIC at that time) also stated that John "is a calm, confident man with much experience as a man manager and organiser.....particularly able at combining his engineering knowledge and workshop practice with his work study training and experience... a most reliable and completely trustworthy man".

In the 1980/90's John was back at Arborfield college as an Instructor and it was his brain child to start newsletters for the AOBA; this developed into OBAN making him it's first editor.

John died on 23rd January 2015 after a long period of suffering from acute emphysema (C.O.P.D.) and he leaves his wife June, daughter Suzanne and son Christopher.

WO1 (ASM) R ISBILL (Ron)

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Ron passed away on 28 December 2014, aged 92.

Ron joined the Regular Army in 1936 as a boy soldier, aged 14, at Hilsea Barracks, Portsmouth, moving later to Arborfield where he served an apprenticeship as a vehicle mechanic.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, at the age of 17 and a half, he became a despatch rider due to being underage for adult war service. From 1940 to 1943 he carried out repairs to all types of vehicles and engine driven plant, mainly on anti-aircraft gun sites throughout UK.

In 1942, Ron passed his Artificer vehicle course and was promoted to Staff Sergeant then in 1944 he saw active service from Normandy through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, returning to UK at the end of the European War. In late 1945, he was posted to India and Burma,

John's funeral took place on 20th February 2015 at Hawkinge Crematorium in Kent with a good few ex-Arborfield old boys voluntarily present. John's wish was that any donations be made, if desired, to the Army Benevolent Fund as the army was his life.

Dieu et mon droit

Roger Traves 47A

C.O.P.D stands for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, something that this editor also suffers from. Ed

where his work included looking after and supervising Japanese POW's before returning to

UK in 1948 to be an instructor at Blackdown. In 1950, Ron was promoted to WO1 and posted to Egypt as an ASM of 19 Armoured Workshops in the Suez Canal Zone where he moved with his family, returning to UK in 1955. Ron was then employed at the Military Vehicle Research and Development Establishment in Chertsey Surrey until 1959.

Ron's final posting was to the Technical Training School at Duisburg, Germany as the Chief Instructor until 1962, when he retired from the Army.

**By Malcolm Tanner, Surrey Branch,
REME Association**

MAJ (RETD) A T LOFTUS (ALAN)

By Mrs Gill West

It is with regret that I inform the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers of the death of Major (Retired) Alan Thomas Loftus following a short illness on Saturday 21 February 2015. Alan joined the Army at the age of 14 years on 21 January 1942. He did his initial military training, over an 18 month period, at the Army Technical School (Boys), Arborfield, finishing in April 1944. He then joined REME and following several postings joined 6th Airborne Workshops in November 1946. He continued his career with several Airborne postings until August 1949. He progressed

through the ranks to SSgt when he was posted to Egypt in November 1951. He had married Dorothy on 15 July 1950 and following his posting in Egypt he moved to Kenya in April 1952, with Dorothy joining him there. Postings in the UK followed and he was commissioned in REME in March 1965 and served in 1 (BR) Corps Troops Workshop in Bielefeld. Subsequent postings at SEME and CVHQ in Bordon followed and he finally moved to York in September 1971. He retired from the Army in July 1977. Alan thoroughly enjoyed his Army career and was totally committed throughout his 36 years of service. He enjoyed the social aspect and attended many functions with Dorothy both whilst serving and

afterwards. He attended annual dinners of the Arborfield Old Boys Organisation and REME Association get-togethers, keeping in touch with current and past serving members. Upon retiring Alan and Dorothy moved to Glasgow where he took up civilian employment forging a second career until he retired for good in April 1992. Alan was a keen sportsman during his Army service and was particularly fond of rugby, which he played at Unit and the Corps level. He also enjoyed boxing and was a qualified judge as well

as a keen spectator. In addition, he enjoyed watching football and playing golf. During his long and distinguished career, Alan was supported by Dorothy and his family. He will be very sadly missed by all who knew him.

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Deaths Notified since last OBAN

1715	McGuire	MJ	Micheal	42C	07/04/2015
1006	de Barry Barnett	RH	Richard	52B	10/04/2015
n/a	Swallow	GW	Jerry	P/S	27/03/2015
n/a	Power	TP	Thomas	May 39	14/01/1988
n/a	Isbill	R	Ronald	36 H	28/12/2014
n/a	Sharp	MJ	Micheal	55B	25/05/2015
1517	Naylor	P	Patrick	42A	31/08/2014
2051	Crowther	R	Rodney	44A	01/07/2015

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 Arborfield Old Boys Association and therefore, no responsibility for these will be accepted. All contributions and articles for inclusion in OBAN are most warmly welcomed although text in Microsoft Word format and photo/images in TIFF or high JPEG formats are preferred. Photographs or diagrams must be high resolution if they are to look acceptable - aim for something at least 100kb in size. **Send article and photographs separately, please do not embed photographs within the text.**

Membership of the Arborfield Old Boys Association is open to all those who served as apprentices or permanent staff member, at one of the Army Apprentices' Schools or Colleges at Arborfield between 1939 and 2004. There is an annual subscription of £15.00. Application forms are available by post from the Honorary Secretary, and on the website www.arborfieldoldboys.co.uk

Front Cover Photograph: And it is Goodbye to Him, Lt Col (Ret) Brian G J Hutchins.

Rear Cover Photograph: And it is Hello to Him, Lt Col (Ret) Mike Tizard.

