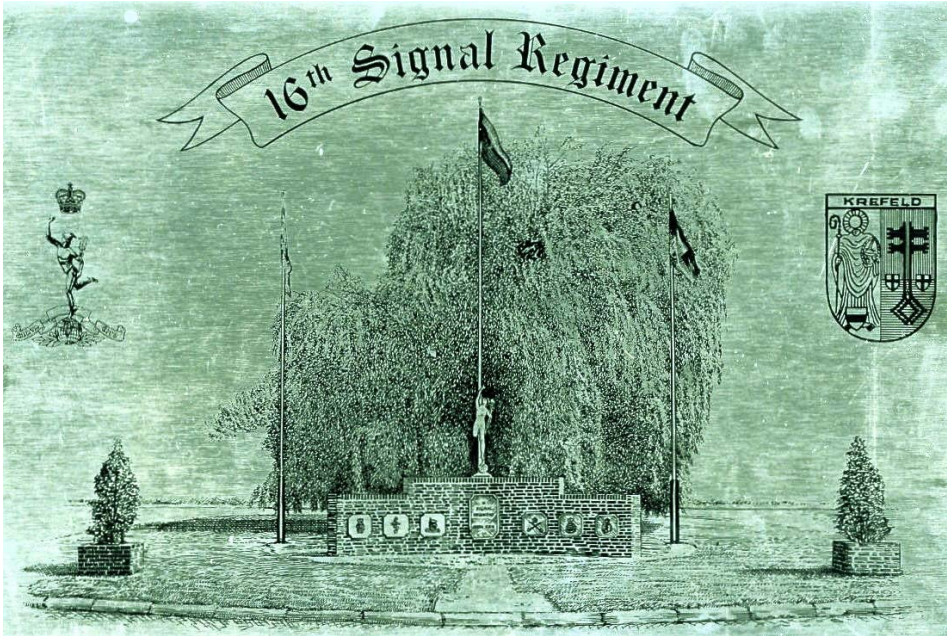


*Bradbury Mercury*  
1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club



Issue Number 18      Compiled by Ted Theis      August 2006



Regimental Plaque 1983

Looking  
Forward  
To  
Harrogate



Our Front Page:

Centre Picture: Regimental Plaque presented to all SNCO's leaving the Regiment.

Bottom Pictures: Cairn Hotel Harrogate, reception, car park, hotel at night.

## HARROGATE REUNION 2006

A few words from the organisers of our next reunion at the Cairn Hotel in Harrogate.

**Final payment required by Sept 06.**

Syd and Bridget have been very busy organising an outing for you to enjoy. For those who want to see Catterick again, an outing is planned for Saturday 21st October. This is a coach trip to the Dales (sorry not the Derbyshire ones) leaving the hotel at 0830 hrs and taking in Richmond as well as Catterick. It will return at approximately 1500 hrs in order for people to get ready for the Gala dinner.

Please be sure to contact Syd or Jackie if you want to go. A, 35 seater coached has been ordered and 11 people have so far booked. See List.

Reme & Sue Harper, Ted & Hazel Hebden, Jackie Carvill, Ann & Tweet Nightingale, Graham & Lynn Jolly, Rae & Bill White, Bill & Carol Birch, Ted & Gwen Theis and Laurie Torrie.

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Mr Chairman we have been assured that your Jacuzzi will be ready on your return. Sorry, Tweet, we did ask but there's only the one. (Who's got the biggest mouth?)

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Bad news for those who wanted to visit the Army Foundation college, as that trip has been cancelled.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Harrogate our next reunion	2
The chairman's note.	3
In Memory of Dave Bracey and our thanks to Ken and Marlene	4
Our thanks to Taff Powell	5
Attendees/What's in a name	6/7
Avia Weekend/Military Myths, Bud Abbot and 249ers	8/9
Harrogate Mini re union/Entertainment report	10/11
Who'd have thought it/Congratulations/Gremlin sighting.	12/13
Whose got the biggest mouth and Mind teaser	14/15
Who are they now - or do we really care?	Back

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## A Note from our Chairman



By now you are all probably aware that a few changes have taken place. Ted Hebden has taken over the website and Ted Theis the Mercury magazine. Both are reliant on our membership's participation regarding input and both inform me that we could be doing more to make these lines of communications much better. Sid Wilson (this year's organiser) informs me that this year's reunion in Harrogate will have a record number attending and he along with Jackie Carvill and the Entertainments' Committee seem to have just about everything in order with regards to the programme of events which will encompass 3 days. Knowing Sid, I shudder to think what he has lined up!

Sadly we had the passing of Dave Bracey in June 2006:-

Sheila Bracey acknowledged receipt of the £30 from our club which went to Cancer research, this decision was made as Sheila specifically asked that no flowers be sent. Marlene O'Hagan attended the funeral on our behalf (thank you, Marlene). Sheila, in fact was Marlene and Ken's bridesmaid. Dave's funeral was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006. An email received from Shelia to follow this report!

Chris Abbott having recently suffered a stroke continues to make very good progress. I have visited Chris and he assures me that he will make the Harrogate reunion. Despite the fact that Chris is currently Vice Chairman his wishes are that he does not want to be put forward to take over from myself as Chair, this for obvious reasons.

This, in turn, leads me to remind all, that the positions of Chairman/woman, Vice Chairman/woman and secretary will require filling at the next AGM in Harrogate. Please give this some serious thought, ensuring that anyone nominated, genuinely wants to fill these posts, thereby taking the club forward.

Late addition:- Chris Abbott wishes to express his gratitude for all the cards and best wishes he has received from our membership, and further states that they have meant an awful lot and are very instrumental in his recovery.

Looking forward to seeing you all in October, Reme.

From Sheila Bracey, Email address:- [sheila@bracey510.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:sheila@bracey510.wanadoo.co.uk)

I would like to thank everyone who sent their condolences and for their kind thoughts and wishes, also for the donation to cancer research. Had it not been for 16 Sigs, Dave and I would never have met! We spent 33 very happy years together and have two wonderful sons, Paul aged 30 and Ian 26. My regards go to everyone and if you find yourselves in the Catterick area, please drop in to see me.

Dave Bracey  
1951—2006

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Dave Bracey who passed away on the 10th June 2006. Our thoughts are with Sheila and the rest of the family at this sad and difficult time.

Dave served with the Regiment between 70—73 where he met his future wife, Sheila née Goodyear. He was first attached to radio relay troop and then transferred to the “hole” as a tech on “C” shift. Marlene O’Hagan attended his funeral as both a friend of the family and, as a representative of our reunion club. Marlene reports that a friend commented on how well they remembered Dave’s broad smile and that, that perhaps is how those who knew him would best remember him.

## Veteran's Day 27 June



## Our thanks to Ken and Marlene

We spoke to Marlene  
Asked her if  
She'd write an ode to Ken,  
To thank him for the work he's done  
On t'internet, now and then.

'What me?' she cried,  
'I'm shocked and stunned  
That you should even ask.

I helped him,  
We worked very hard  
To accomplish every task.

So, if you're slinging praise about  
It's only right we share it.  
Give him his due,  
He's happy to,  
We'll both just grin and bear it.'

anon

# Our thanks to Taff who is taking a well-earned break

What will we do without you  
You done your job the best  
Our mag is such a part of us  
With comments from the  
rest

It kept us all in contact  
Though we be near or far  
The stories sometimes funny  
Did really make us laugh  
So this is just to Thank You  
For the job that you have  
done

Now you can have a well  
earned rest

No mags for you,  
just fun



Y'know, I swear I know your face



by Marlene  
O'Hagan



*Thanks Taff for all your hard work*

Seriously, Taff, we are all very grateful for your hard work and we know that it can't have been easy. Contributions notwithstanding it takes a lot of time and effort to consistently produce the standard that you have led us to expect. It's strange but nobody seems to know quite how you were landed with the seemingly insurmountable task of editing and producing what may have only started out as a newsletter but is now, thanks to you, most certainly more of a club magazine.

How ever it happened, Taff, we can't thank you enough for keeping it going and keeping us all in touch.

## List of those attending our next reunion

Sue & Gordon Harper  
Ted & Hazel Hebden  
Lorraine Moore  
Barry & Pauline Edwards  
Alan Willis  
Bridget & Syd Wilson  
Chris & Jude Cottam  
Dave & Lyn Aldous  
Chris Abbott  
Ian & Pat McInnis  
A Paxton & D Ayres  
Claude & Janet Shooter  
Ian & Rita Haldane  
Anne Ferrier  
Bill & Carol Birch  
Tom Watt  
Geoff & Kay Barden  
Brenda Joyce  
Richard & Audrey Grange  
Bill & Lyn Robinson  
Rae & Bill White  
Allan & Sandra Dixon  
Tony & Jo Teague  
Noreen & John Dixon  
Jackie Carvill  
Stan & Jenny Taylor  
Jeff Tilling  
Tom & Sue Thornton  
Roger & Jane Sparks  
Mr & Mrs Buckley  
Ron Hails

Pat & Jean Gallagher  
Lt Col & Mrs Pope  
Frank & Mary Del-Pinto  
Teri Crow  
Ken O'Hagan  
Graham & Lynn Jolly  
John & Joyce Hartley,  
Joy & Phil Yates  
Geoff Lawrence  
Ian Jackson  
Tweet & Ann Nightingale  
Ted & Gwen Theis  
Pete Weedon  
Barbara Greaves  
Elizabeth Gibb  
Peter Crane  
Chris & Mick Sheldon  
Alan & Susan Walton  
Martin Boizot & wife  
John Turvey  
Rosalyn Stewart  
Bill Anderson & wife  
Trev Davies  
Jim Brookes  
Ian & Pat Cameron  
Brenda & Wayne Edwards  
John & Anne Hodkin  
Bruce & Moira Graham  
Lorna Almonds-Windmill  
Eric Firth & Sue  
Tony Cartwright & wife

### **Payment.**

Just a reminder from Syd and Bridget not to forget that all monies must be paid by September. This includes all those who are attending meals only (including the Gala Dinner)..

## What's In A Name?

I have long been intrigued by the strange habit some modern parents have of naming their children after the place of conception.

If Ann and myself had followed this custom then our Deborah Jane would have been called Westpark Assault Course! The following is a tongue-in-cheek attempt to guess what some of our members may have called their offspring using this strange custom.

Gwen and Ted – given that (if Ted is to be believed) nothing happened, then their child could only be called – Bloody Miracle.

Sid and Babyface Bridget – Playground – what else!

Rita and Ian Haldane – would have to be called Kodak – can't remember where it was, but you can bet your arse he's got it on film.

Jackie Carver – she called her first-born Ground Floor, this seems a bit pretentious to me, given that she could only narrow it down to Block 2.

Bill and Carol Birch – given that they spent a great deal of time around the Post Office, it could only be called Special Delivery!

Jan and Evvy – a bit different this one, their first was named after the last thing Evvy saw before she passed out – so it's Amstel then.

A bottle of whiskey to the best one I get at the re-union.

## Avia Breakthrough Week-End

The Avia Week-end for Breakthrough Breast Cancer is a two day, sixty kilometre walk through the neighbourhoods of London. This year is takes place from the 15th to 17th of September. All proceeds benefit the Breakthrough Breast Cancer programme. Funding vital breast cancer research and educational programmes.

I need to raise £1500.00, but obviously, the more the better.

If you would like to help, you can do so in two ways:

1. Send donations to: Mr P Weedon  
71 Grasmere Gardens  
Orpington  
Kent  
BR6 8HF



- 2.. Donate on line: [www.breakthroughweekend.org](http://www.breakthroughweekend.org)

select 'London',

Click 'donate to participant'

and using the search facility (Peter Weedon)

at the foot of the page click name 'Weedon, Peter'.

Here you can, if you wish, make a donation

Thank you for your help

Pete Weedon

# Warmest wishes to Bud

We wish you well and want you to know that our warmest thoughts are always with you.

That said, stop lollygagging and get well real soon. Harrogate is almost upon us and it just wouldn't be the same without you.

Chin up, Kate—we're thinking of you, too, and we can only hope that our Bud isn't as terrible a patient as we suspect he probably is.



## Military Myths and Legends

We were up in the training wing with Fred Copeman, he'd been told to give us a bit of battle training, y'know get us ready in case the ruskies decided to rid themselves of the looming threat that was 16 Sigs.

He gave out all this paperwork and told us to read it 'cos he'd be testing us later and then he settles down with the Daily Mirror.

It got to Naafi break and we figure he's forgotten the test so we start shuffling towards the door, Tweet Nightingale in the lead, naturally.

Suddenly Fred drops his paper and says, 'Right, Nightingale, what steps would you take if a shed load of commies came tear-arsing through that door?'

'Bloody big ones, sarge,' shouted Tweet as he legged it up the corridor.



## 249 Signal Squadron



Taking advantage of the Loughborough Reunion 05 these ex-249ers enjoy a mini reunion of their own. From left to right—Pete Weedon, Graham Jolley, Bud Abbott, Pat Gallagher, Ted Theis and Ted Hebden.

## Harrogate Mini Re-Union Jan 06



You may be aware that a few of our number traipsed off to Harrogate to check out the hotel for our next reunion. It was a very busy week-end, what with checking the food, checking the beer, being forced to check out the shops.

The photo above was taken in the bar and judging from the expressions on the faces of our male members it would probably be safe to say that the beer passed muster. Strange that Ted Hebden actually made it into frame because he spent most of the evening gate-crashing somebody else's party, drooling over their look-alike CHER singer. He seemed to flag a bit when she came off stage and had a fag and a pint but what really blew the froth off his beer was when she pulled up her top to have a scratch and gave everyone an eyeful of hairy chest.

Talking of Ted H we noticed that whilst walking around the town he was seriously eyeing up the more mature ladies of Harrogate. It turned out that he was checking them out to see if he remembered them from way back when.

The food, beer and shops checked out fine by the way and for those of you who, like Ted H, harbour fond memories of the place, well, just don't get ar-



Function room



Main entrance



Foyer

## More about the Harrogate Reunion From Jackie Carvill—Entertainment co-ordinator



It seems like only yesterday that Syd and I were agreeing that ‘it’s much too soon to start planning—there’s plenty of time to sort everything out’ And now here we are with some things decided, others planned and many more still up in the air.

As Syd is the hotel organiser as well as an entertainment committee member he has taken on much of the work involved as he lives in the Harrogate area. Others also living in that area have undertaken to help with the enormous amount of work so thank you in advance to Dave & Lynn Aldous, Bruce Graham and Ian Buckley. Last but by no means least, the power behind the throne—Bridget.

Friday evening will as always be given over to meeting, greeting and catching up.

On Saturday morning we are planning a trip around the Yorkshire Dales. (see Syd’s report on page 2 for further information.)

Saturday evening will ofcourse be taken over by the Gala dinner.

Sunday evening entertainment will begin (by popular demand) with a Revue. This, as everyone knows is Syd’s baby with details being kept a closely guarded secret (I have been warned that any security breaches could result in loss of life—mine). Suffice to say that with Reme, Tweet, Dave and Co involved anything happen! We will inform you of any ‘up in the air’ issues that come down to earth with a bump via the website so keep your eyes peeled for further developments. After all you don’t want to be wearing your elf costume when everyone else is sporting a medallion and singing ‘Are you lonesome tonight!’.

Finally—the entertainments committee would be very appreciative to all those who bring a raffle prize. (you never know you might even win one).

A few of points to note regarding the hotel.

We are not allowed to put posters etc on the walls. The Bar is CASH only and we are not allowed to put drinks on the room tab. For those attending ‘meals only’ the price is £19.50 per head per meal and must be paid by Sept 06..

Meals:

Friday	Meeting old friends, carvery, vegetarian, (closes at 2130hrs)
Saturday	Gala Dinner, with vegetarian (menu to be advised)
Sunday	Theme night, carvery, plus vegetarian.

# Who'd have thought it?? Not I...

By Reme Harper

Following Jim Brooke's recent operation, myself and a couple of 'good' friends went across to Herford to visit him and his family. On arriving I found that Jim, who had very kindly booked our accommodation, had reserved a family room for us. The room was really quite cosy, consisting of one double bed and a single. The receptionist had given the key to me and, imagine my surprise when, on opening the door, my travelling companions, Trev Davies and Ted Hebden, jostled me out of the way and made a bee-line for the double bed. Well! My flabber was well and truly gashed. They had pushed past me so forcefully that I fell to the floor and there I lay, bruised, battered and totally overcome with embarrassment. In typical fashion, I regained my composure and decided to put the whole sorry incident behind me. In truth, I was afraid to challenge their reasons...



After dinner we went to the hotel bar and knocked back a few German lagers, nice! After six or so glasses I was beginning to feel totally out of place since, first Ted and then Trev kept doing exaggerated yawns and complaining that they were "oh, so tired".

The following morning I was first up and after completing my ablutions I decided to go for a walk. Ted and Trev were still abed and peering at me over the duvet.

Suddenly Ted challenged me with, 'Where are you going, Reme?'

I retorted, 'Oh, just giving you two a little privacy.'

The rest of our visit passed very uncomfortably for me as I felt so absolutely in the way!!

I think, Hazel, that the time is right for you to ask Ted a few questions!

On a more serious note we had a great time especially since both Jim and Trev are going through a difficult time with their health. We enjoyed ourselves immensely, due in no small part to Jim's lovely daughters making us feel so welcome.

P.S.

No, Trev did not buy a round!



With Jim and three of his daughters



Ted & Trev—nuff said



Oooh, lonesome me...

## *Congratulations Geoff Lawrence and Pat*

What lovely news from  
both of you,  
I hope you remember  
what to do,  
Although it's easy, so  
they say,  
It's still hard work, to be  
courting today .  
But you two have and it  
seems right,

Engaged and a wedding now  
in sight,  
It's fabulous news, so nice  
to get  
And proves there's life in  
the old "Dog" yet.  
But just be happy and live  
your life,  
Good luck to Geoff and,  
soon, his wife.

PS

Can I be a flower girl? I think I can manage some roses  
strapped to my crutches. Marlene

## Gremlin Alert

(Gremlins are closely related to leprechauns and banshees—as shown by their reddish hair and their tendency to wail—a lot)

They are incredibly narcissistic and will go to any lengths to reproduce their image onto, or even over, someone else's. We are aware that many issues of the Mercury have contained a high proportion of Gremlin contaminated photographs, specifically by the notorious Yorkshire Tyke Gremlin and it is high time that we took steps to eradicate this menace. Be vigilante! Once your camera is out, he is sure to be drawn and within micro-seconds he'll be into frame and out again even before the flash has faded. This is a serious warning, people; let's work towards a Gremlin free future where photographs may be displayed without alarm or dread and where the worst we have to fear is Jan Radford's belly.



A serious case of  
Gremlin infestation



Jan Radford's belly

## **Who's got the biggest mouth?**

When we look back to our Krefeld days, we often do so through rose-coloured glasses. Sure, it was good at times, and many of us found Love. But sadly, beneath that seemingly wonderful life, jealousy, pettiness and downright hatred was brewing and bubbling.

Unfortunately some of it still exists today (no, I've forgiven the Colonel for the jankers – his wife assured me he was unwell at the time!) and has become a somewhat more virulent strain of jealousy. It saddens me to say that a certain Gordon (The Reptile) Harper causes me projectile vomiting every time I see him and his ubiquitous blazer heading my way.

He has always been my Nemesis, and during those heady Krefeld days he always managed to stay one step ahead of me. Worst of all was when he beat me to dating the gorgeous Oggy Smith, and to add insult to injury he always maintained that nothing happened! What a load of old crock, anyone who knew Oggy in those days knew her morals were as loose as her knicker elastic!

My hatred for the man is total, and I know it is mutual. Consequently go-betweens have arranged for him and I to clear the bad blood between us by taking part in a boxing match at our forthcoming re-union. All credit to the reptile though, his list of victories in major fields is legendary – Biggest Bullshitter, Mr Body Odour, Most hated at School, Toe-rag of the year 1961/2000.

Sure, these are great titles, but the one we both want, the ultimate accolade, the biggest one of all – Biggest mouth of the Re-Union.

The Slimy One is good, all the physical attributes are there – massive paunch, small brain, no class, shallow and obnoxious. But I can see no reason why I can't take him in all departments.

So, come along and support either or both of us, and knowing him it won't be for the first time!

See you there.



Tweet

*For those of you who want to improve their mind.  
A small brain teaser*

		7	9		4	6		
	1	2	3		8	9	7	
	5		2	4	6		9	
2		4		9		5		7
	9		7	8	5		2	
	6	9	5		7	2	4	
		5	4		9	3		



## Who are they now?



A quiet Yorkshire girl - how does that work...



This little boy was never really suited to engineering.



A Scottish lass who hasn't strayed too far.

Can you put the names to these infamous faces? No prizes for guessing who is number two, his hair has gone from his head to his chin.



Little old wine drinker me...



You won't catch this one without a net.



These super shiny curls gave way to a super shiny head

A big thanks, goes to Chris Gildea from 'CKG Consultancy' for printing this issue of our newsletter

Thanks Chris



### The 1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion

Please email or contact the person below with any items for future inclusion

Email: [ted.theis@btinternet.com](mailto:ted.theis@btinternet.com)