

Bradbury Mercury
1960s 16 Signal Regiment Reunion Club



Issue Number 25

Compiled by Ted Theis

February 2010



Our Front Page:
Mercury—after a re-union weekend. (Is that why they called One Squadron
'The Fairies')



Presentation to our guests by Bill White

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Chairman's Opening Remarks

Although I'm writing this well before Christmas I realise that by the time you are reading it, the festive season will hopefully just be happy memories. May I therefore start by wishing you all the best for the New Year, hoping that it will be a peaceful, healthy and happy one for you and your families.



I must admit my first year in the Chair has flown by with many memorable visits and occasions which culminated with another classic annual reunion at Blackpool. It would be easy to be critical of the hotel, location or turnout but I think we proved that all these things may be overcome and the general consensus was that we enjoyed one of the best reunions held to date.

Could I take this opportunity to thank the members of our Committee for all their hard work and efforts to provide what is a vibrant and thriving Club. I know we can sometimes take it for granted but you only have to read the thank you letters from our guests at Blackpool to see how lucky we are. I would particularly like to thank, on your behalf, Dave Aldous for his efforts along with his entertainments committee and also the two Teds who provide such an excellent service with this publication and our website. I would also like to welcome and thank our new Secretary, Sheila, and Treasurer, Peter, for volunteering for their roles and for the positive effect both are already having.

Following the Blackpool reunion I accompanied Jo Teague to recce the Park Inn Hotel at West Bromwich for next year and I'm very pleased to report that not only were the staff very helpful and positive but that the hotel is possibly one of the best we have used. It is bright, modern, very clean and easily accessed by any means of transport. The deal that Jo has achieved is very competitive when considering that the cost includes all the usual items plus lunches and mid morning and afternoon tea, coffee and cakes. The hotel also has a very comprehensive Fitness and Leisure Centre with Swimming Pool and Jacuzzi so don't forget your cossie.

Rae and I look forward to seeing you at West Bromwich, if not before, and until then all the very best.

Bill

Eggheads

The Hypnotherapy Association was asked to put forward a team to take on the famous Egg Heads of the same named quiz programme on BBC2 each evening. The photo shows the guilty parties of the TRANCEFORMERS team with the Eggheads and Jeremy Vine who compered the show.

From my perspective it was a wonderful experience. Initially we were invited to audition in Birmingham (central for most of us, some travelled from the wilds of Poole, Manchester and The Wirral). The audition was scary and much more challenging than I expected. We had a written “test” and I am still suffering from brain ache from that one. Then a mini eggheads was conducted where a subject was given and one of the team was nominated to answer it. We obviously did ok because we were invited to actually go on the show.

On the 10th March five of us made our way to the Encore hotel in North Acton, where we were put up overnight. We had worked out our strategy, that is, not to have one and just take it as it comes.

Next morning, bright and early, we took a taxi to the studios. Shame the taxi driver took us to the wrong one and we had to trek lugging three changes of outfit (as requested by BBC) to the other studio. It was only a couple of hundred yards – it just felt like miles.

This is where we met David our team substitute. We were greeted by the BBC guys who were absolutely charming and taken to a “green room” where there were soft drinks, biscuits and sweeties to keep us going. We then laid out our clothes and the wardrobe people selected what we should wear and we were taken off to makeup (even the guys). What an experience! It was so interesting and it is true, they do come and put powder etc on you in between takes.

We changed into the selected outfits and were led into the studio and given precise instructions on what we were allowed to do, how and where to look etc. We were warned not to itch, scratch, pick our nose or rub anything for comfort at any time. The cameras would be on us at all times. The Eggheads and Jeremy Vine came in. Each of them greeted us and wished us luck. Jeremy introduced the team as Tranceformers and made several amusing comments about us hypnotising the Eggheads, it is hard to remember exactly what was said and done because of the high

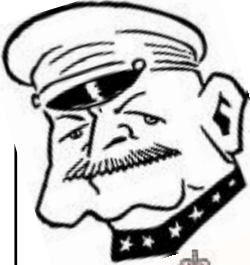
state of excitement. The Hypnotherapy Association was indeed mentioned because our commonality was membership of the organisation.

So we started, the time just whizzed by and I am delighted to say that we did not disgrace ourselves or the HA. As each subject was announced the designated person had to go to the question box. In advance it was decided that Costa would do Sport or Entertainment. Ellen's speciality was entertainment. Helen's was Science, mine was Food and Drink. This was all dependant on which subjects came up and the order they came up in. Shame the subjects we wanted did not all come up and I cannot divulge further details at this stage. As each designated contestant made their way to the box we were all on edge and willing them to know the answers. In the last stage there was a lot of discussion before the final answer. Interestingly it was too intense to be worried about being on TV or cameras at all. It was a good match and the Eggheads were all charming. A day to remember and it was all over by 12:30pm.

Josephine Teague



The Eggheads and the Tranceformers with compere Jeremy Vine



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Date: 07 Nov 09

60s – 16ers REUNION, 17 – 18 OCTOBER 2009 BLACKPOOL.

I am writing this letter to show my gratitude for the hospitality afforded to me and my wife at your recent reunion in Blackpool. We were both made to feel extremely welcome by all members both at the dinner night and during the following day.

It was very humbling for me as a serving soldier to have the opportunity to meet your members and I enjoyed every minute of the weekend. I hope that the presentation was pitched at the right level for all those that were in attendance and it gave you a better understanding of today's life in 16 Signal Regiment.

It was very interesting to see that the Army goes through changes all the time but the mainstay is it's soldiers and having listened to people's stories on Saturday night it still amazes me that soldiers are the same today as they were back in the 1960's.

Again a massive thank you for the gift and the opportunity to meet and speak to you all and if I can help in any way in the future please do not hesitate to contact me.

S Letter of thanks, sent to Bill White, from WO2 RQMS (T) S Wedge

V Please excuse the quality.
Rw

MY 24 HOURS OF FAME by Audrey Grainge

Earlier this year my sister and I went on a mini cruise to Amsterdam. Unbeknown to us when we booked, it was a Darts themed cruise. The players were Eric Bristow and Keith Della so we went along to watch. They invited members of the audience to play against them and me being somewhat of a darts player thought I would like to have a go. So the next night, armed with a bottle of wine, we sat ourselves down at the front. When Eric and Keith came on they put their drinks on our table and asked us to look after them. Me being me I said I would like to have a go. Eric said no problem, put your name on the list. We were halfway down the bottle (my sister is teetotal) when it was my turn. I played Eric Bristow. On my first throw I scored 71 and continued to play well, the audience was in an uproar. I beat Eric by a good margin. He was very gallant about it and presented me with a bottle of Champagne. Next morning I was something of a celebrity with people coming to congratulate me, it was truly MY 24 HOURS OF FAME.



Above: Audrey winning her game and
Left: Audrey with Eric and Keith
(please excuse quality—it was taken
with a mobile)

Blackpool Reunion 16 – 19 October 2009
Review by Sheila Bracey

Chris and I arrived at the Norbreck Castle Hotel on Thursday evening, having travelled from sunny Catterick, and were joined by Reme and Sue Harper (Donny born and bred – well Reme at least), Brenda and Wayne Edwards, the intrepid travellers from Canada who, despite the distance and wherever the reunion takes place, always make the effort to be there and Jim Brooks who arrived from Germany. We dined on the hotel grub, which was surprisingly good, then retired to the bar for the usual old fashioned catch-up and the inevitable few drinks.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny which as I, originally coming from Preston, seem to remember being rather a rare event in Blackpool. My memories tend to be of cold, very blustery days with the waves billowing over the sea wall when the tide came in, so the good weather was a blessing – does someone manage to book this phenomenon for the reunion weekends I wonder?



Photo courtesy of Iain Haldane



Helen & John
Fradley

It had been decided by the recce party not to arrange any trips this year as the location lent itself to many options, the closeness of the Lake District being but one example, regular buses and trams along the seafront to Fleetwood being another. I do believe that some brave souls even ventured into the town to sample the delights on offer.

Saturday evening saw us all dressed up in best bib and tucker and the function room was very nicely presented, with the tables dressed in the Corps colours and the flag displayed proudly for us all to see. We had the pleasure of the company of Major John Fradley and his wife, Helen, for the Gala Dinner. John, as some



Ian sorting out the crowd

of you might remember, was RSM at 16 Sigs, Rheindahlen, at the time when we lost our founder member, Chris Bartlett, and who was instrumental in assisting with many of the necessary arrangements associated with events at that sad time. Also



Something has confused these three could it be Reme bought the beer?

present from 16 Signal Regiment, Bruggen, were WOII (RQMS) Sean Wedge and his wife, Nicola. Dinner was served in a very efficient manner by the staff and although the menu choice may have been a little unexciting, the food was enjoyable and there were bottles of wine on the tables with the compliments of the Norbreck Castle.

The entertainment was provided by a guy called Rae Grant, diminutive in stature he may have been, but whose voice turned him into a colossus. He stood in at the eleventh hour when, unfortunately, our erstwhile chap had to pull out. Beginning with 50s songs, he continued to progress through the decades throughout the evening. In fact he performed several final numbers as we were so reluctant to let him leave. The poor guy had probably never come across anything like the 60s 16ers before and it may take him some time to recover from the experience!

Sunday morning brought with it the AGM where Bill White provided us with his Chairman's Report, followed by the remaining committee members reports. The positions of Treasurer and Secretary were up for renewal with both being filled by volunteers, Peter Crane becoming the new Treasurer and myself as the new Secretary – a daunting task I know but somebody has to do it.

There were only two venues proposed for next year's reunion, the first of which was suggested by Tony White and presented by Chris Abbott. Tony was unable to make the reunion this year but thinks Spain is a viable location for a reunion if organised during the low season as prices for flights and accommodation are very reasonable and could be comparable with UK venues, also the weather in October is still very pleasant and there would always be the option for



Shirley and Bud, with Pete Weedon

extending from a long weekend to a week's stay and making a nice Autumn holiday out of it. It was decided that Spain was perhaps more suited to a mini-reunion at a future date if anyone is interested.

Jo and Tony Teague proposed the Park Inn Hotel in West Bromwich for the weekend of 15 – 18 October 2010 (see page 12 for booking form) and, as there were no other options for the UK, either north or south of the Watford Gap, this

was voted in by the members attending the meeting. Being in the midlands this venue is reasonably accessible to all.

Let's all remember that the location isn't really that important – we have to

meet somewhere if we are to hold our reunions and it's the getting together with old friends, having a good time and ENJOYING OURSELVES that bonds us together and makes the association work so well.

After the AGM our guest, Sean Wedge, gave a presentation on the current and future plans of the Regiment, covering a very hectic schedule which included



Ted H or Groucho Marks?



Hazel H and Sue H

preparations for an operational tour to Afghanistan during next year. In the distant future the Regiment will move back to join 22 Signal Regiment at what was an RAF base in Stafford. Bill has written to thank the CO, Lt Col Andy Fallows, on behalf of all our members for what was a very interesting, educational and inspirational presentation. The presentation was followed by

a cold buffet lunch.

Mardi Gras evening was something else! What a fantastic night we all had, the costumes had to be seen to be believed – well done Syd and Bridget – Syd I'll never



forget that pregnant young blond in those shimmering blue leggings and Marlene's chunky chicken outfit was brilliant. There were masks and feathers galore. Thanks go to Dave for his organisational skills and to those who took the time to festively decorate the room. Once again, the entertainment was second to none with excellent karaoke renditions from Reme, Maggie Shaw, Bill Robinson, Syd et al, all who have better singing voices than mio – who can't hold a note. An excellent hot and cold buffet was served in the function room, again with complimentary wine on each table. We were extremely fortunate to have the room to ourselves for both the Saturday evening and Sunday events. In fact, the hotel couldn't have been any more accommodating.

What else can I say? All in all, despite the location, the weekend was fantastic, fabulous, brilliant and any other superlatives you may wish to add, and for those of you who couldn't make it – sorry you missed a great reunion. To those who haven't attended for a while – remember what you're missing and please come back to us. I have it on good authority from certain persons who have attended all the reunions that this was the best so far! Last but not least, a huge THANK YOU to everybody who put in the time and effort to make the weekend so successful



Rae and Bill enjoying the waltz, whilst everyone else was doing the Hand Jive



Photo courtesy of Iain Haldane

Entertainment for 2010 Reunion at the Park Inn, West Bromwich- 15th-18th Oct 2010

As in recent years we plan to have a live group for the Gala Dinner Night on Saturday. The Sunday night has recently taken the form of a "Theme Night" with a disco and this is the plan for this year. Idea's already in the hat for consideration are 1.Halloween Scary 2.Tarts & Vicars 3.Old style/traditional(or not) Sports attire, (Lycra, (multi coloured), would definitely be acceptable providing the wearer doesn't scare any kids!!

I'm sure that we have many out there with equally acceptable suggestions. Please get them to me to enable a balanced decision to be made by your committee.

We've definitely had a good laugh at ourselves with the skits in the past, thank you, too, to those who have performed to equity standards.

Could we please all give it some thought and resurrect them this year? This would take place on the Sunday night, so c'mon folks, get your thinking caps on and let me have your ideas. GIRLS, get together, sort one out and give us all a good laugh, (with you, not at you).

Please do not hesitate to contact me with all your suggestions (hopefully clean and non tooooo painful

My contact details are as follows:- 1. Email - laldous@talktalk.net 2. Tel No - 01423 507220 3. Snail mail - D Aldous, 6 St Johns Grove, Harrogate, HG1 3AQ





LAS VEGAS 2010

Plans are well underway for our get-together in Las Vegas in September 2010. We have planned the dates for the event for September 5th to the 10th. As most people will be attending from the UK we felt it best to have people make their own flight and hotel reservations. We realize the distance involved for a trip of this type and it makes sense to spend more time than the 5 days we have set aside to see more of the US whilst on this side of the Atlantic.

We, along with Lyn and Dave Aldous have made our hotel reservations at Harrahs Hotel and Casino and whilst this is not an endorsement for Harrahs the location is very good, being located almost right in the centre of the "Strip". There are lots of hotels for you to choose from and the rates are all different depending upon the level of luxury you would like.

We have several ideas for entertainment during the 5 days which may appeal to you. We are planning a visit to the local American Legion Post to visit with US military veterans, perhaps taking in a show, indoor shooting range, 10 pin bowling, visiting the "Freemont Street Experience" (a light music and light show) etc. In fact, the entertainment aspect in Las Vegas is huge with something for everyone. We are planning a "Welcome to Vegas" get together on Sunday evening September 5th, 2010 at Harrahs, Time and location to be announced later.

There are several very good internet sites for Las Vegas which give hotel rates, show ticket prices, restaurant locations and menus. Here are a few that you may find worth looking at.

www.lasvegas.com

www.harrahslasvegas.com

www.insiderviewpointlasvegas.com

We will post updates and information on the 60's 16ers web site regarding who will be attending as and when we get confirmation. We will also have the information printed in the Mercury subject to space availability. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Las Vegas and if you need any information please contact us directly either on email

wbedwards@shaw.ca or by phone 250-474-5722 or regular mail at 2603 Crystalview Drive, Victoria, British Columbia, V9B 6M9, Canada.

VIVA LAS VEGAS

Brenda & Wayne

Snow!



This photo was taken when we still thought it was 'pretty'.

Christmas Eve and it snowed. And snowed. Ted uncovered his stockpile of grit n' salt, shouldered his trusty snow shovel and entered the fray. Not a snow flake fell that wasn't immediately scooped up and consigned to an ever growing (and decidedly ominous looking) snowman. I begged him not to give this one a snow nose, and ears, not after the nightmare of last year when the neighbours told

everybody that I'd finally flipped, slipped a mickey into his cuppa and then left him out in the snow to freeze. In their defence, that nose was horribly realistic. Tempting as it seemed (and even more so this year) I hadn't touched him, even though the police insisted on turning the snowman over and taking away our snow shovel.

Christmas day dawned as white and flawless as an M & S Christmas cake, until that is, Ted came around the side of the house pushing his brand new snow shovel up front and dragging the leaf blower behind. (What's that old saying about shoving a brush up one's bum ...?) Anyway, he huffed and puffed his way up our drive and back down next door's and then barely stopping to take a breath, he shifted his blower up a notch and took off down the garden, ploughing through the snow that had piled up overnight.

Just before lunch the scrunching of his shovel and the farting of his blower (he swears it was the blower) finally fell into a merciful silence and Ted appeared stamping and stomping the snow off his boots and ready for the Queen's Speech. My hero had cleared most of the snow in the neighbourhood and then some, including for them as didn't want it cleared, amazingly there were quite a few of these, but Ted prevailed and at last, as he gazed around his icy kingdom, he could safely say, his job was done.



The start of the big freeze, known locally as 'D' One

Imagine my chagrin then, when the New Year hadn't even notched up a week of the new decade and it started snowing again. I had to hide his new hat, one of our daughters legged it with his snow shovel and the grandchildren sat on him. Still he managed to break free and with his bare hands (and bare headed) he cleared a space directly outside our house where people visiting someone on the next street, promptly parked. Not a good start to the New Year, not a good start, at all. You can imagine that, at this point, Ted didn't need a snow shovel, his rage was so great that his breath rivalled a dragon's and once again he entered the fray. But this time, his actions went against all the laws of nature for instead of removing the snow, he started putting it back and before long the offending car was securely wedged in behind Ted's very own Mount Snowdon.

His conscience prevailed however and half an hour later he removed his great wall and waited at the window so that he could give the cheeky b's a searing glare (and one of those slow head shakes), when they came back for their car.

And that, I think, is that, except...



Ted digging out again
'D' Twenty One and counting

...it's still snowing!



Our grandchildren tackling the pike. How many times do you have to tell boys to keep their hats on??

Park Inn

Birmingham Road West Bromwich, B70 6RS
Tel: 0121 609 9988 Fax: 0121 525 7403

60s16ers Booking Form

Please send your booking forms direct to the hotel for the attention of Nicky.
Deposits should be paid by 28th February 2010

Weekend of Friday 15th Oct 2010 to after breakfast Monday 18th Oct 2010

Name /s

Address

Tel:

Please reserve the following accommodation for me / us s indicated

3 days in shared room @ £45 per person	i.e. £270 per couple	£
3 days single use of room @ £65 per person	i.e £195	£
2 days in shared room @ £45 per person	i.e. £180 per couple	£
(Friday & Saturday or Saturday and Sunday)		£
2 Days single use of room @ £65 per person	£130	£

Please specify room required

Double Twin Single

I enclose my non refundable deposit of £25 per person £

Balance to be paid in full before 1st September 2010

Park Inn, West Bromwich



Park Inn Birmingham West, M5 J1 is your ideal residence and conference venue in the West Midlands with easy access from motorways M6, M5, M42, close to public transport and only 4 miles into Birmingham City Centre. The hotel is a brilliant base whether you are visiting for business or pleasure.



Directions

Situated just off junction 1 of the M5
Easy access from M6, M40 and M42
Birmingham International airport is 14 miles
West Bromwich Albion football stadium is walking distance
4 miles to Birmingham city centre , ICC and NIA Arena
NEC and Ricoh arena is 20 miles
Aston Villa Football Stadium is 4 miles
5 minutes from the metro
5 Minutes from Sandwell and Dudley Railway Station
5 Miles from Birmingham New Street Station



Photo's : Top Left—Bedroom
Below—Location Map
Top Right—Dining Room
Bottom Right—Meeting Room

Three old soldiers, Dave Aldous, Dixie and Ted H were out hiking when they came upon a wide and fiercely raging river. Desperate to get to the other side, Dave, dropped to his knees and prayed, 'Oh God, please give me the strength to cross this river.' A puff of smoke and God bestowed him with bulging biceps and strong legs and he was able to swim across, but it took two hours and twice he almost drowned. After witnessing this, Dixie prayed, 'Oh God, please give me the strength, and the right tools to cross the river.' Another puff of smoke and God bestowed Dixie with magnificent biceps, super-strong legs, and a row boat. He managed to get to the other side, but it took him an hour and he almost capsized three times. After watching Dave and Dixie's almost catastrophic crossings, Ted H gave his prayer a little more thought and eventually he said, 'Oh God, please give me the strength, the tools and the INTELLIGENCE to cross this river.' A third puff of smoke and Ted turned into Hazel. She checked the map, walked three hundred yards upstream and crossed by the bridge. Regards Reme.



4 THINGS YOU PROBABLY NEVER KNEW YOUR MOBILE PHONE COULD DO

There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:

FIRST

Emergency: The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobiles is 112.

If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialled even if the keypad is locked.

SECOND

Have you locked your keys in the car? Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone:

If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their mobile phone from your cell phone.

Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end.

Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you.

Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other 'remote' for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the



boot).

Editor's Note: Not tried this.! Maybe someone could try and let us know if it works?

THIRD

Hidden Battery Power

Imagine your mobile battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370#
Your mobile will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery.

This reserve will get charged when you charge your mobile next time.

FOURTH

How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * # 0 6 #

A 15 digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset.

Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone gets stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code.

They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless.

You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it, either.



Picture of RR Troop in Sauerland, provided by Peter Crane

Extract is from a letter received from Maj. John Fradley R. Signals to Bill White.

Dear Bill,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the 60s 16ers for your kind hospitality shown to myself and Helen during the 2009 reunion and Gala Dinner. The weekend was a super event made all the more pleasant by the extremely good memories of those present who were able to remind me of some of the antics of the 2000 reunion; putting my own memory to shame.

I was particularly struck by the strong bond and commitment of the members and whilst I recognised it when I first met the group all those years ago, it appears to me that it has grown particularly strong; indeed it is something we would struggle to replicate amongst the current serving community. I was honoured to be asked to propose the toast to the memory of Chris Bartlett and I am sure he is looking down on the group with pride at what he started and how much it has grown. You all have a very special connection which is humbling to witness and a privilege to have experienced.

The unique glass presentation in Corps Colours now sits amongst our other treasured presentations where it is receiving many admiring comments from fellow Corps Members; perhaps Marlene has found a niche in the market.

Please pass on our sincere gratitude and congratulations to all the 60s 16ers for their hospitality, friendship and determination to continue to be unified as a result of their Service experience together. May you have many more memorable reunions!

Yours Aye
John and Helen

The words, comments and articles contained in this magazine are written by club members and are for the sole entertainment of club members and in no way reflects, the views or opinions, of the club generally or its officers.

Any items for the August 10 edition please submit by 30th Jun 10.



The 1960s 16 Signal Regiment

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

Email: oggyandted@gmail.com
www.the-60s-16ers.com/

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