

STOP MESSAGE

The magazine of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Past Members Association



www.xhfrs.org.uk



**Typical period appliances at thatched roof fire,
East Boldre, 5 May 1992**

INSIDE



NEW MUSUEM

*Opening soon!
Volunteers needed*

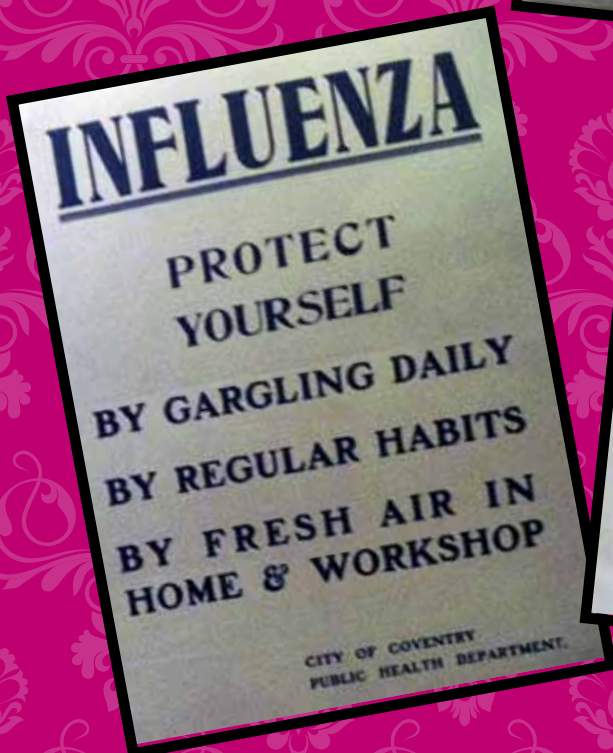
FRED GARDINER

*A personal experience
part 2*

PAST TIMES

*Focus on
Fleet Station*

World War 1 SIGNS OF THE TIMES?





Are you reading this magazine and are not a member? Why not join the Past Members Association and receive your own copy? Membership costs just £10 per year.

Magazine contributions sought and gratefully received.

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STOP MESSAGE

Welcome from the Editor

May already! This year seems to be flying by fast, that's for sure! It is interesting to how the dry winter months have resulted in a spate of heathland fires – or as the trend seems to be creeping in – 'Wildfires'. The county has not really seen a 'silly season' for some while, despite surrounding counties still getting their fair share. The requests for Land Rovers must be testing the policy to remove a number of such vehicles from service and the time taken to get these valuable resources to the scene. As a county, Hampshire has an interesting range of terrain and vegetation and, over the years has seen some spectacular and threatening rural fires. Recent years, with wet seasons have seen a downturn in such calls, something no doubt reflected in the recent review of vehicle types and disposition. Likely also, will be a resulting crew experience and knowledge gap as many may not have attended calls on the scale and frequency of the past

Mother Nature has a knack of reminding everyone that what could happen, will in due course happen. The new concept 'Wildfire Vehicles' – effectively replacing the MRV capability, will be tested with enthusiasm. They certainly look a capable and effective vehicle.

Following a review, the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority has reduced its number of elected members from 25 to 10 plus Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. April 1 saw the official launch of a new national body – the National Fire Chiefs Council. This follows on from the creation of the National Police Chiefs Council. Such moves fall out from both organisations seeking to position themselves to be able to best be able to tackle the many changes taking place or facing the public services as they go forward.

Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, Brandon Lewis has awarded £1 million from the Police Transformation Fund to nine Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for their work in developing proposals to take on the additional responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue in their area.

The PCCs who will receive funds are Sussex, West Mercia, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Gloucestershire, Staffordshire and North Yorkshire.

Watch this space! A lot going on and to think about for those still serving.

A reminder to anyone who has not renewed their subs as of 1 April. Anyone not having paid on the occasion of the monthly draw will not be included and, the sending of 'Stop Message' will cease after 1 October.

Until the next time...

Alan House



Fire and Police Heritage Collection



New Museum

The new Fire and Police Heritage Collection, located within the Solent Sky aircraft museum continues to make good progress. We now have a total of three display rooms and we are well advanced in their construction and displays in rooms 1 and 2.

Additionally we now have workshop space at ground level, complete with vehicle servicing pit and, having recently been donated a 1936 Dennis Trailer Pump that once belonged to the Droxford Parish Council, we have a new project in restoring it, (one of only 50 of this type produced), from its current very sad state.

The crew of willing volunteers who regularly help have continued to take on the challenges of being located on the second floor of the building and getting out two Police motorcycles, (a Velocette and a BMW), up two flights of stairs made everyone swear and sweat. But we did it and, they are now on display. The BMW had to be partially stripped to reduce weight and size. An ex- motorcycle cop and ex-motorcycle mechanic did a great job on this task.

Having been donated a suitable saddle by a visiting member of the public; we now have our period mounted policeman sat on our full-size mannequin. Our display cabinets are beginning to fill and we now have the mammoth task of identifying and labeling everything. Brass, copper and alloy branches are now gleaming and functioning after the skilled efforts of Pete Boyd, ex-Horndean.

From our regular crew, Paul Turner ex-HQ Comms, has transformed, (no pun intended), our lighting and technology offering. Mick Chaplin, ex-Tadley, tackles and gives guidance on most building and construction jobs, Charlie Knight, ex-Beaulieu and Phil Webb – ex-HQ, muck in an any task that needs doing (Phil is a whiz at wall hangings and Charlie's rural skills will shortly be put to good use doing some ground clearance around the building.), Ralph Deacon, ex-Botley takes on all the metalwork fabrication jobs and anything mechanical, Lionel Williams, ex-Control and Romsey, is a dab-hand at painting and intricate repairs on our models (and getting in small places), Gary Wragg, ex-Winchester retained, and key figure in the creation and operation of Milestones Museum has kept us on the straight and narrow

in respect of the museum design and displays. Not forgetting Colin Mockett, ex-West End, Training Centre and Catering Team, who did so much in the early months before he and Carol moved to live in Norfolk. Me? I just turn up!

Clare Murphy, ex-HQ Graphics Artist, has been helping us with display boards and artwork.

On call and helping at various stages of the project, tackling whatever jobs we give them we have seen Bob Ratcliffe, Steve Pegler, Malcolm Collier, Richard Haynes, Jeff (and Penny) Hare, Colin Millar, Martyn Long, Roy Reynolds and Dave Boulter.

There are still plenty of display build-jobs to be done if anyone out there is looking to occupy some time. Plenty of banter and mickey-taking, if you miss that old fire service culture. Political correctness sometimes stretched without fear!

Together with Police colleagues everyone has taken the project from a single large empty room to what will be three display rooms that will show off the proud heritage of both Services within Hampshire.

The official opening, will be performed by our patron, The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq on 12 July.

The plan is to organize a PMA event in the museum so that those attending can see not only the Fire and Police collection but also the extensive collection of aircraft associated with the skies of Hampshire in the past. Solent Sky, is really quite a hidden gem and well worth a visit.

Further details in due course.

Alan House







We will be seeking volunteers to offer some time to be in the museum to keep things tidy and meet visitors etc, once we are fully open.

Chairman's Report to the AGM, April 2017

The Chairman commenced the meeting by asking everyone to join in a brief silence, to remember those members of the Association who had passed away during the past year.

The PMA has now been up and running since 2008 with the inaugural event in 2009. We are still here and growing, serving our member's needs. Your committee meet bi-monthly to plan events and deal with any issues. We have well over 350 Members plus their partners.

We have our own information stream with an up to date website that advertises our functions and news items, this is enjoyed by our membership and colleagues around the world. In 2016 our website received 6,305 hits and a unique number of 1,979 visitors to the website. The most popular pages being the home page, advertising of events, 'Stop Message' magazine and 'Final Salute'. It also allows access to useful information on the HFSR website, and the PMA Facebook and Twitter accounts, which are becoming increasingly popular in keeping the membership in contact.

The PMA website is also available to advise on welfare matters and can help in directing those requiring advice to the right source of information for support or help.

Please spread the word and we encourage you all to 'sign up', to follow.

Our magazine continues to be ever popular and has contained some very interesting articles on member's hobbies, trips and holiday adventures, PMA activities and issues, including some history on the past from 'Uncle Albert'. A section of Scrapbook memories and letters and updates on present day changes, including those moving on to Pastures New and of course, Final Salute. Indeed our magazine is the envy of many fire colleagues around the world.

Our finances are sound and the Treasurer looks after the funds as if they were his own, our accounts are regularly and independently audited.

We maintain links with the HFRS Sports and Social Assn and attend quarterly committee meetings at FSHQ. The PMA is now considered a full section within the organisation, this allows us access to FSHQ for functions and provides insurance cover for Public liability. We also have some committee members attending the Fire Service Charity meetings and on the Fire Pensions committee to ensure our members are kept informed and their views are made known.

We have again been very active on the social side, with the ever popular pig racing events and suppers.

Again it's nice to be back using the newly refurbished FSHQ although many amongst us feel it has not quite the same ambience as our 'old HQ'. I think we all miss the Phoenix bar, but we will manage to get by and it's not so far to the gent's loo now, which is very useful as we get older!

The trips to London proved successful with the regular theatre trips and the special Buckingham Palace visit and exhibition of the Queen's wardrobe. The Sunday lunch and skittles championships at Wellow Golf Club were again a sell out. We also tried some weekday lunch time events at the catering college in Eastleigh, these proved to be a great success and will hopefully become regular events. Other activities during the year were the treasure hunt and not forgetting a very enjoyable Christmas function at East Horton with 75 attending.

One event currently advertised is 21 June to the Bombay Sapphire Distillery at Overton including lunch at Test Valley Golf Club.

Another trip which is already booked, but is yet to be circulated, is on 26 September to Windsor for a river cruise, restaurant lunch and a visit to the Historic Royal Castle with audio tour.

We will also be arranging other lunchtime events at the catering college and the Sunday lunch Skittles event at Wellow Golf Club, and there will be another Christmas function at East Horton.

Your committee have now served for many years, we are always looking for new ideas and feedback from the members to keep the PMA moving forward. I must take the opportunity to thank all of the committee for their support throughout the year and in particular to the Secretary and Editor for his tireless work and the excellent magazines, the Treasurer for his dedication to detail. I would also thank those sorting and maintaining the website and media communications, and of course those that send out the information to keep us in touch with events and sadly details of those passing on.

I look forward, with confidence, to another successful year for the Past Members Association.

Andy Anderson
Chairman



General Service Medal (1962)

Many past and serving members may have noticed from time to time that some ex military members display a distinctive purple and green medal ribbon on their uniform, alongside the more recognizable red and gold ribbon of the Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and more latterly the ribbons of the Queen Elizabeth the Second Gold and Diamond Jubilee Medals. This is the ribbon of the 1962 General Service Medal (GSM).

The 1962 GSM was introduced in 1962 so that the three services Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force would have the one common general service medal, with the appropriate clasps attached designating the campaign for which it was issued. The clasps are worn in the order that they are earned, reading from the bottom of the ribbon upwards. If the recipient had already been awarded the medal, then the additional clasp would be added to those already on the medal. The maximum known to be awarded to any one individual is thought to be six. (There is one ex HF&RS member who I know has three clasps, but knowing this individual well I also know he would be far too modest to show them off). The 1962 was never issued without a clasp.

The 1962 GSM is 36 mm in diameter and made of silver. The face of the medal shows the crowned image of Queen Elizabeth II. The reverse bears the words 'FOR CAMPAIGN SERVICE' under a crown, all surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves. 1962 GSM s have the name, rank, service number and regiment or corps of the recipient engraved on the rim.

The 1962 GSM was awarded to British and Commonwealth forces for campaign service and the usual minimum qualifying time in theatre was 30 days. The 30 days service did not have to be consecutive days. If the qualifying period was cut short due to injury or death, then the completed days were counted as sufficient for the award of this clasp.

The convention is that the 1962 GSM takes president over the Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and as such will be worn in any group to its right (nearest to the centre of the tunic).

Exceptionally, you may see a 1962 GSM ribbon emblazoned with a bronze oak leaf; this signifies that the recipient has been 'mentioned in dispatches'.

14 Clasps were awarded between 1962 and 2007, when the 1962 GSM was replaced by the Operational Service Medal. The clasps are:

- Cyprus 1963-64
- Borneo
- Radfan
- South Arabia
- Malay Peninsula
- South Vietnam
- Northern Ireland
- Dhofar
- Lebanon
- Mine Clearance, Gulf Of Suez
- Gulf
- Kuwait
- N. Iraq & S. Turkey
- Air Operations Iraq



Shand Mason Catalogue

Some nice illustrations from Shand Mason catalogue from the late 1800s.

Shand Mason, renowned suppliers to Fire Brigades. It was very common, pre WW2 for Brigades to equip themselves, by means of a variety of supplier catalogues, purchasing anything from firefighting equipment, to uniforms, badges and medals.

OFFICERS' AND FIREMEN'S HELMETS.



Metropolitan Brigade Pattern, in Brass, 25/- and 20/-
Officer's do., White Metal, 60/- & 42/-



Parisian Pattern, Brass, 17/6
Officer's do., from 42/-



Leather, with Brass Crest and Chin Strap
Metropolitan Pattern, 25/-
Officer's do., with White Metal, 32/6



Leather, with Brass Crest and Chin Strap,
Volunteer Pattern, 25/-
Officer's do., with White Metal, 37/6



Leather, with Brass Mounting,
Volunteer—No. 1 Pattern,
15/-



Leather, with Brass Mounting,
Volunteer—No. 3 Pattern, 15/-



Leather, with Brass Mounting,
Manchester Pattern, 18/-

The Leather Helmet in most general use by Volunteer Fire Brigades is the No. 1 Pattern.

Leather Helmets can be had with White Metal, instead of Brass Mounting, at an extra cost of 6s. each.

Leather Helmets are also supplied White Enamelled in lieu of Black, with Comb white or coloured.



Leather, with Brass Mounting,
London Salvage Corps Pattern, 18/-

75, UPPER GROUND STREET, BLACKFRIARS ROAD, LONDON.

BOOTS, HAND LAMPS, BUGLE, SPEAKING TRUMPET, HORNS, Etc.



Napoleon Boots for Firemen 32/- per pair.
Officers' do. Call, 40/- per pair.
Officers' do. Patent Morocco, 60/- per pair.

OFFICER'S HAND LAMP with Fitting for Waistbelt, 18/-.
FIREMAN'S do. do. 12/-.
Similar pattern, Lamp in Copper Brass, bright, with Fitting for Waistbelt, 20/-.
Similar pattern, Black Japaned, 18/-.

LARGE SIZE HAND LAMP. Copper, bright, with Fitting for Waistbelt, 25/-.

Wellington or London Firemen's Boots, 32/- per pair.
Officers' do. Call, 40/- per pair.
Officers' do. Patent Morocco, 60/- per pair.

HAND SIGNALLING LAMP, showing White, Green, or Red Light, 21/- each.

Brass Speaking Trumpet, 12/6

Reed Alarm Horn, Stout Copper, with German Silver Mouthpiece, very best quality, 17/6

Regulation Duty Bugle, with Lines and Tassels, complete, 21/-

NEW SIGNALLING HORN for Fire Brigade Officers.

Fitted with single piston and key, by means of which two distinct notes, clear and strong, are produced. The horn is more easily blown than a whistle, whilst its sound will carry much further. Its length is under 6 in., and can, therefore, be easily carried in the tunic pocket, or attached to shoulder belt or waist belt. Being of the very best workmanship and strongly constructed, it is not liable to get out of repair.



New Double Note Signal Horn, giving two distinct sounds.

Polished Brass, 9/6; German Silver, 14/-; Sterling Silver (half marked), £5 5s.
Cases, 9/6; Shoulder Straps, 4/-; Cords, 2/3.

SINGLE NOTE HORN.

Of similar shape and size to above, but without piston or key, 6/3.



Single Note Signal Horn.

75, UPPER GROUND STREET, BLACKFRIARS ROAD, LONDON.

BELTS AND FITTINGS FOR FIRE BRIGADE USE.



Leather Waistbelt, with Hand Axe and Case, 14/-

Officer's do., Patent Leather with White Metal Fittings and Special Axe, 20/-

Do. do. Morocco Leather, 30/-

Hand Axe, 6/-

Special Officer's Axe, with Walnut Gunstock Handle, 12/-

Officer's Patent Leather Wallet with Loop for Belt, 8/6

Pocket Line (12 ft.), with Loop for Belt, and Spring Hook, 2/-

Nickel-plated 2/6

18 ft. Line, 2/9

30 ft. Line, 4/-

Polished Hose Wrench and Nozzle Spanner combined, with Leather Case and Attachment for Belt, 7/6

Polished Hose Wrench and Nozzle Spanner with Socket for Belt, 5/6

Polished Hose Wrench, with Socket for Belt, 3/6

Fireman's Strong Canvas Life Belt, for use with Pumper Ladder, 30/-

Patent Leather Shoulder Belt, with Wallet, Silver-plated Whistle, Chain, and Fittings, 30/-

Strong Leather Waistbelt, with Hook for attaching to sound of ladder when working on fire escape.

SHAND, MASON & CO., FIRE ENGINE MAKERS AND HYDRAULIC ENGINEERS.

OFFICERS' WHISTLES WITH CHAINS.

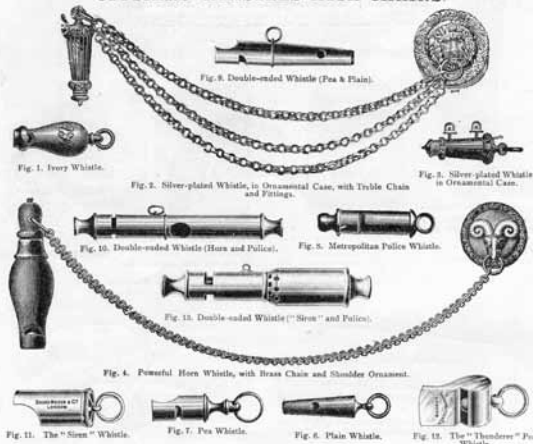


Fig. 1. Ivory Whistle.

Fig. 2. Double-ended Whistle (Pea & Plain).

Fig. 3. Silver-plated Whistle, in Ornamental Case, with Triple Chain and Fittings.

Fig. 4. Silver-plated Whistle in Ornamental Case.

Fig. 5. Double-ended Whistle (Horn and Police).

Fig. 6. Metropolitan Police Whistle.

Fig. 7. Double-ended Whistle ("Siren" and Police).

Fig. 8. Powerful Horn Whistle, with Brass Chain and Shoulder Ornament.

Fig. 9. The "Siren" Whistle.

Fig. 10. Pea Whistle.

Fig. 11. Plain Whistle.

Fig. 12. The "Thunderer" Pea Whistle.

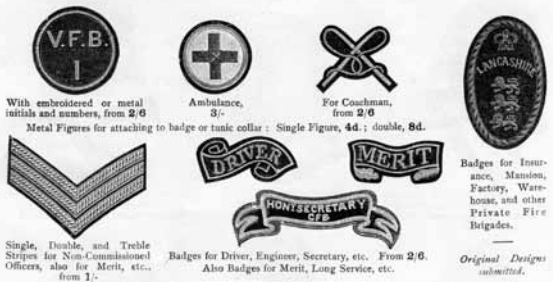
PRICES.

	£	s.	d.
Fig. 1, Ivory Whistle, engraved to order, with Silver-plated Chain and Fittings	1	0	0
Figs. 2 & 3, Silver-plated Whistle, in Ornamental Case, with Triple Chain and Lion's Head Fitting ..	0	10	0
Ditto Sterling Silver (half-marked)	2	3	0
Fig. 4, Powerful deep tone Horn Whistle, with Brass Chain and Ram's Head Ornament	0	7	6
Fig. 5, Plain German Silver Whistle, with Silver-plated Chain and Hook	0	2	6
Fig. 6, German Silver Pea Whistle, with Chain and Hook	0	2	0
Fig. 7, German Silver Metropolitan Police Whistle, with Chain and Hook	0	2	6
Ditto Sterling Silver (half-marked)	0	2	0
Fig. 8, German Silver Combination (Pea and Plain) Whistle, with Chain and Hook	0	3	3
Fig. 9, German Silver Combination (Police and Horn) Whistle, with Chain and Hook	0	3	0
Fig. 10, German Silver "Siren" Whistle, with Chain and Hook	0	2	6
Fig. 11, German Silver "Thunderer" Pea Whistle, with Chain and Hook	0	2	6
Fig. 12, German Silver Combination (Police and "Siren") Whistle, with Chain and Hook	0	3	0

Whistles, as Figs. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, if fitted with Solid Silver Half-marked Chain and Hook, instead of Silver Plated, 10/- each extra.

SHAND, MASON & CO., FIRE ENGINE MAKERS AND HYDRAULIC ENGINEERS.

EMBROIDERED BADGES FOR TUNICS.



With embroidered or metal initials and numbers, from 2/6

Ambulance, 3/-

For Coachman, from 2/6

Metal Figures for attaching to badge or tunic collar: Single Figure, 4d.; double, 8d.

Single, Double, and Treble Stripes for Non-Commissioned Officers, also for Merit, etc., from 1/-

Badges for Driver, Engineer, Secretary, etc. From 2/6. Also Badges for Merit, Long Service, etc.

Badges for Insurance, Mansion, Factory, Warehouse, and other Private Fire Brigades.

Original Designs submitted.

SCALE EPAULETTES FOR OFFICERS.

BEST QUALITY OF WORKMANSHIP.



SINGLE EPAULETTES. Brass 5/9 each.

White Metal, nickel-plated 9/-

DOUBLE EPAULETTES. Brass 10/-

White Metal, silver-plated 15/-

Sterling Silver, half-marked Double Scale Epaulettes, £4 4s. per pair.

Silver Cord Epaulettes, per pair, 7/6.

ARM BADGES FOR SUPERNUMERARIES, ETC.



Ribbon, with lettering in colour or gold (for arm or hat), from 3/-

Leather, with initials and numbers, from 5/-

Metal, with initials and numbers, from 5/-

SHAND, MASON & CO., FIRE ENGINE MAKERS AND HYDRAULIC ENGINEERS.

The Leadership Course

Having seen and read previous articles in Stop Message regarding Junior Fireman, ETT and Accelerated Promotion Courses I wondered where the 'Leadership Course' would fit in to personal development. You will have to excuse the mix of old and modern terminology in this article and the fact that I cannot remember all the detail of the course.

I wondered how successful these courses have been in regard to the succession for promotion for the participants on these courses or programmes but with this in mind I can only comment on the Leadership Course which I was privileged to be selected to attend and leave it to you to decide on how successful these courses may have been. I cannot remember the exact date but believe it was 1992?

“Dad I wanna Pee!”

Hopefully there are none of the participants or staff still active within the service, so there should be no issues with the context of the course or this article in relation to discipline, as the Fire Service Discipline Regulations have been rescinded for them. I make no excuses if this feels a bit like confessions on 'Steve Wright in the Afternoon' on Radio 2.

You will have to excuse me if I cannot fill in all the gaps as the grey cells are beginning to take over!

So, with in trepidation and a lot of secrecy from previous attendees of the course I arrived along with the other course attendees on a cold November Sunday evening to register and settle in for the start of the two week residential course starting at Service HQ for the first week and then of to Wales for the second week of adventure.

Monday morning was spent introducing the course staff and participants to each other all who can be identified from the

photograph. Of course there were rules, but the course was to be by virtue of mutual ranking, as well as plenty of brown envelopes. The course was split into two syndicates, myself being privileged to be with Alf Tudge, Bob Russell, Mark Withers and Martin from Bucks FS.

On Monday evening, it was off to a holiday park near Ringwood to participate in syndicates in our first team exercise and leveller. An ice-cold outdoor pool with the tasking to transfer a computer from one side to the other. Looking around there was only one thing for it, strip of, hold on to the crown jewels and go for it. Round one to my syndicate. It soon become apparent that this was a naturalist colony and nothing more enjoyable after the cold dip than

sitting in the hot sauna after the exercise with Eric and Ivan Jack, who was a guest. Good job for a nice shower and supper.

Tuesday night was orienteering across the New Forest, around the area that was often used for the recruits courses - 'Map March'. Great fun in the dark, trying to navigate, especially around the New Forest Hotel at midnight, without trying to wake all the guests or alarm the staff.

Wednesday evening was off to Wookey Hole where we gathered for potholing and sump diving for those who would like, but sump diving was not for me. A hot shower after with a meal and a welcome pint in the local hostelry and it was back in the crew buses back to SHQ.

I don't know why, but I ended sitting between Eric and Kevin who was driving, in the front of the bus. Conversation was quiet until Kevin made a comment that it was all quiet in the





Back row left to right. Dave Brown. Lloyd Bishop. Mark Bates. Stuart? Mark Withers, Bob Russell, Berks? Alf Tudge
Front row left to right. Staff Officer Paul Moss (Mossie) Kevin 'Butch' Butcher, Eric Hounslow, Alan Hold, Malcolm Collier, Bob Bates, Eamon (?) Berks

back. Never in my life had a comment been said too soon. Within a nanosecond the cry came up from Bob Russell: "Dad I wanna Pee".

Emergency Stop and all out for a pee, the Bonsai Brothers (Bob Russell and Mark Withers) adorned with appropriate headbands challenging anyone to hit them in the stomach for some unknown reason. All back on and back to SHQ for bed.

Thursday afternoon and evening was all about personal development and experience in front of our syndicates. Course staff encouraged us to discuss individual life experiences with our syndicate. I found this very profound and an experience in human nature not to be forgotten. The sessions were in confidence and, to my knowledge, this has been the respected to this day so will say no more about these sessions

Friday was debate day. Our subject was the role of women in the Fire Service as was commonly a debate of the day in the early Nineties. Yes, as you may have guessed our syndicate had the job of speaking against, great!

After much research and planning the debate took place in the conference room at SHQ to an audience of service staff. Much to surprise as a syndicate and in keeping with our team ethos of winning, we won the debate.

I don't think we could do that now, but I appreciate that it was taken in the context of presentation and not prejudice. During the week there were also other lectures on management, as well as team building and leadership initiatives.

So Friday evening it was off for R and R at home with our families having given a box of goodies to the staff officer for inclusion in the kit for Wales as we were not sure of what to expect, little did we know that we would not require a box of goodies, good job to as the box did not make it on to the Bus, enough said as it did turn up, thanks Mossie.

Gathering for the Sunday evening, after a weekend of R and R, everybody was fired up and apprehensive of what the week ahead would involve. Suddenly, Rambo from Fawley appeared, full battle dress kit including a Bergen containing all that would be required to survive anywhere, let alone a week in the Brecons.

I can't remember who resuscitated whom on our syndicate, but we all survived from the laughter.

On to the Brecon's for the second week based at the West Sussex centre as we had been excluded from Hampshire's centre, Oh Dear!

You will have to forgive me again, as the grey cells have engaged and I cannot remember the exact sequence of events.

First challenge in Wales was canoeing in Indian canoes on the Wye River. Can remember asking if we were going the right way, silly me it was obvious to paddle downstream. On the way we had to collect rations from bags hanging from bridges on the way and then on to camping out for the night.





Back at base for the first evening I was seconded to the kitchen with Eric, maybe something to do with serving on Cosham Blue Watch with Kevin and being the watch caterer. Plenty of ingredients in the larder as well as bottles of whiskey, I was amazed how we got a meal out?

Abseiling off a viaduct, great fun especially having to rescue Bob Bates from getting in a tangle and ending hanging the wrong way up half way down.

Rock climbing was another activity, which was great fun, and a challenge to me.

I cannot think of the reasoning, but several of our syndicate had taken some alternative dress back with us, so early one morning Alf and I decided to give the staff tea in bed dressed as a chef and waiter much to their surprise. Not a pretty sight seeing Eric and Butch hanging out of their bunks in more ways than one.

After a day hiking up and over the Brecon's, in competition with such regiments as the Ghurkhas, Paras and others, we arrived at our base for camping out for the night, the weather was rough and wind strong.

Right, light the fire, dinner and get the tents up. Top quality tents borrowed from Malcolm's scout group. Oops, the wind was strong enough to tear the tent in half. Ok down to making a bivouac. Just done and dinner eaten when the

radio crackled to tell us that we would be taken off to help in the search for the other syndicate, who were missing. I was a little pleased, as I was severely cold by now.

We eventually found the other syndicate all camped down at the Storey Arms. For those who think that this is a pub, wrong - it is a car park with a toilet block. Yep you got it right, camped in a toilet.

After a day and night on the mountains it was off to a leisure centre for a swim until we heard a voice saying "you aren't going in the pool until you have all showered and shaved" Ok off for shower and shave with supplies provided by the course staff. Soap was ok but the second hand Bic razors where a disaster. Good job the blood transfusion service was not there. Faces suitably patched we enjoyed a good swim before heading back to base for evening meal and more whisky for me as assistant chef.

Horse trekking one afternoon was an adventure I had not experienced before. I didn't expect to see Alf Tudge absolutely upright hanging on for dear life, especially when we trekked down a stream up to our knees in water. I did enjoy it as I had a packet of mints in my pocket much, to the annoyance of other riders as the horses all bolted for them when I scattered a few on the ground, my nemesis came when on the final leg back to the stables down a hill, it was hang on for dear life as the horses made for home, much sympathy with Alf.



On to kayaks for an evening challenge. Bardic torches taped to the front of the canoe and off we went into a tunnel, which was a bit spooky, on out the other side and a paddle to a local hostelry. No money and the Welsh language to contend with but, we managed to get some beer and await collection. But, NO! Another brown envelope and it was all back into the kayaks. On the paddle we encountered the first of several low footpaths across the river. Alf Tudge knew what to do to get under these, lay back with paddle across chest and glide under, suddenly there was a thud of chin against metal bridge, and yes Alf was wedged under the bridge. Brilliant!

We all could not stop laughing, albeit Alf needed rescuing. Then it was onward to our rendezvous and another late night return to the centre.

Thursday evening was down to the syndicates to provide the entertainment in the form of a Sods Opera. Don't ask how or why, but our syndicate had used our weekend break to bring back some ideas for this as we had been advised of this.

So ably led by the voice of the one and only Alf Tudge, many celebrities presented awards.

Firstly to the accompaniment of the Wedding March played by Eric on his keyboard, the Rev Tudge suitably attired with his dog collar, performed the wedding ceremony for the Bonsai Brothers, much to their surprise, accompanied by rings and a wedding certificate (maybe the first same sex

marriage in history if not totally legal at the time), but fun in the context of the course and the embarrassment of Bob and Mark.

Secondly the Prince of Wales gave the monologue to the course and presentations.

Many experiences were recalled, none more so, to the embarrassment of Malcolm Collier, when The Prince announced the cry of the team on the night on Brecon when the tent tore in half - "Golly gosh that's torn it "

A bulls**t award was presented to the losing syndicate as with the context of Mickey taking within the service.

Well, enough said, holiday or not - I think the course was a huge success, looking at where some of the participants ended up on their career paths, alongside the participants of other such programmes, but I will leave it to you, the reader, to conclude for yourself.

Sub Officer 978 Mark Bates

Ed – Other than the group photo, the images are from other Leadership Courses. No doubt someone can advise which one?



Fred Gardiner

a personal experience part 2

10th August 1943

As dawn broke I could begin to see something of my surroundings. On one side grassland with a boundary fence some fifty yards away, after which the terrain fell away and I could see nothing beyond. On the other side a rough stony track ran alongside the pylons and disappeared between a few straggly hedgerow bushes to right and left. Beyond the track more open scrubby grassland with pine forest perhaps half a mile away making a backcloth in that direction.

A few noises, mainly of animals, - a cockerel, a dog, could now be heard in the distance but there was no habitation to be seen. I examined myself for injuries; sprained ankles but not painful enough to suggest broken bones; a sizable bruise, almost from wrist to elbow on the right arm; cuts on the hands probably from the dipsticks; a pinched thumb of which the nail was blackening, and a black eye which would be more obvious in the next day or two.



The opening parachute had given me such a jolt that I felt slightly bruised about the ribs and for a few days breathing was going to be noticeably painful. Overall, the damage seemed to be superficial, a fact for which I was very grateful.

Next to check was what equipment and useful articles I possessed. The 'chute and harness were of no further use but the idea that the 'Mae West' lifejacket would make some sort of footwear was not very successful. Before cutting it up with a penknife I tried inflating it but the gas cartridge failed to work, an incident to make me reflect on my good luck to be on dry land.

I had cigarettes and matches but my watch was missing, likewise my cap although how the latter could have been ripped away from under a shoulder epaulette covered by a lifejacket and 'chute harness was a mystery. A pity about the watch but the lost cap was of no consequence. My escape pack was undamaged. I opened it and transferred the contents to pockets.

The pack contained Horlicks tablets, chocolate, a tube of thick condensed milk, two silk maps the size of handkerchiefs, a compass in the form of a marked button pivoting on another, and, in a separate packet, Belgian and French banknotes to the value of about ten pounds. I also had three passport size photographs for use on identity cards should there be any chance of acquiring such items.

Where was I? That was the next most pressing question. I had seen the glow in the sky which could have been Mannheim under attack but at what distance? We had been flying for an hour and a half at least. Studying the maps was not very helpful. This could be Germany, perhaps Luxembourg, Belgium, or even France. All these countries came together in this area.



Pessimistically I concluded it must be Germany, with luck it could be Luxembourg but in any case it was now highly likely that I would be taken prisoner. The prospect did not daunt me too much, anything after the experience of four hours ago would be an anti-climax. Thought of being interrogated occurred to me, the possession of the identity photos bothered me; would the Germans consider them the property of a potential spy? Rather foolishly I destroyed them.

By now 'K for King' would be posted as "missing on operations". I thought of those at home, my RAF friends and colleagues receiving the news, and, later in the day that same news being received by my father and aunt at Banbury, and other relatives and friends. They would be left wondering my fate for some time to come. My fellow wireless op. Sgt. Stanley Banting would surely be shaken by our failure to return after my jest of the evening before (in fact Stan was posted 'missing believed killed' before my return to the UK and so never learned of my survival).

Despite my predicament I felt a certain sense of relief that perhaps the war was over for me and that my chances of seeing the end of it albeit as a prisoner of war were now considerably better than they had been a few hours ago. Of my crewmates, Jack Kendall in the rear turret must surely be dead. The others would have had a reasonable chance of getting out but for the time being their fates would remain unknown.

Having decided to make a move I caught the sound of a horse and cart on the stoney track. Led by, presumably, a farm hand they came into view between the bushes and stopped abruptly on seeing me. In some gesture of greeting (or perhaps surrender!), I reached for a handkerchief to wave. The man must have thought I was about to draw a gun and he took cover behind the cart! However, seeing I was



harmless and by now realising the situation he came forward. He shook my hand warmly and pointed in the direction from which he had come using the word 'camarade' which I showed I understood. He was soon on his way leaving me to set off in bare feet on the sharp stones in the opposite direction. Progress was painful.

I remained puzzled as to my whereabouts. The word 'camarade' sounded German to me but this man with his friendly greeting could not possibly be German. Perhaps he was a conscripted labourer or maybe this was Luxembourg after all. The track passed under an iron railway arch and formed a T-junction with a second class road. A signpost opposite said 'RULLES' and pointed to the left. I could see cottages a hundred yards or so in that direction and decided to make for them. Smoke was coming from the chimney of one of the cottages on the right; otherwise all was very quiet with no one to be seen. After all, it was still a very early hour. The weather was fine with hardly a breeze.

I was within a few yards of the houses when I heard the sound of a motor vehicle approaching from some way behind. Instantly it occurred to me that probably only Germans would have fuel for cars or trucks. With the need to take cover I ran to the house, which had the smoking chimney. Throwing open the door I stepped inside, closing it quickly behind me. From a curtained window alongside the door I watched as a truck passed; it was a covered army vehicle, open to the rear and sitting inside were soldiers, rifles between their knees. This was the search party no doubt, but they had noticed nothing. For me it was my first sight of 'the enemy'.





The stone-floored room was austere to say the least. There was a table, a chair or two, and a doorway leading to a back room. There were animals running about in this back room, I seem to remember chickens included. So it was true that country people on the Continent had their smaller farm animals in the house with them! An elderly lady dressed in black was in the room. On seeing me she burst into tears but whether from fright or pity was difficult to tell. A few moments later a man of about forty came from the back room and greeted me enthusiastically. He soon produced socks and boots and with an old black raincoat to cover my uniform he indicated I should follow him. The language I had now concluded was French. This did not completely solve the dilemma of my location but that it was not Germany was at least a source of some comfort.

We left the cottage and crossing the road made our way to another, less obtrusive from the highway and less austere than the first. Several people came to see me. I felt rather like an object of curiosity; one elderly gentleman spoke a little English. My uniform was changed for some very second-hand civilian clothes whilst my newfound friends were obviously trying to work out a plan to get me on to an escape route. A lady of about thirty whose name I learned later was Madame Thérèse Féry took a prominent part in the proceedings and after some deliberation I was taken to a third cottage, even more isolated and some way from the

road. Here we were greeted by a man who at last cleared up the mystery of my whereabouts by informing me "ici Belgique!". I was welcomed into the house and was soon eating a slice from the biggest plum pie I had ever seen and drinking what was perhaps a substitute for coffee. The food situation however was really quite grim as I was going to discover.

At this cottage I remember being intrigued with the hand pump at the kitchen sink, the first time I had seen such an arrangement. During the afternoon a doctor came to examine me. He was soon convinced that I had no serious injuries, and handed me some banknotes before shaking hands and departing. Later in the afternoon two young men arrived on bicycles. A third machine was found for me and the three of us set off for a new destination.

Unlike Britain in wartime the signposts were still in situ and so I was able to make a mental note of place names, unfamiliar though they were. En-route one of my companions produced a black beret (every male member of the community seemed to be wearing one), which fitted me perfectly. Judging from the reaction of my friends I could now be taken to be one of them.

After a mile or so we arrived at a house in the little village of Marbehan. We entered but there seemed to be no one about other than ourselves. My guides however appeared to be

quite familiar with the place and I was shown to a bedroom upstairs where it was made clear I could spend the night. Left alone I sat by the window looking out through the heavy net curtains; there was no one about, these villages seemed almost devoid of inhabitants.

The elderly gentleman from Rulles came to see me. He was a little pessimistic of my chances of escape. If I chose he would direct me to the gendarmerie where I could give myself up, presumably in uniform again. But by now I was beginning to think it might well be possible to get away and certainly worth a try with or without the help of these sympathetic people. So I declined that suggestion and left alone again began to feel the effect of no sleep for the past thirty-six hours. Dusk was falling so I undressed and got into the not uncomfortable bed.

On the verge of sleep I was suddenly awakened by a small, rather sharp-featured man of about thirty-five. Monsieur Robert Féry, alias "Raymond", was a man wanted by the Germans. He had apparently recently shot his way out of a house where he was about to be arrested, killing several Germans. Now he was telling me in words and signs that I was in the house of a collaborator and we must leave at once. I dressed quickly and we were out of the house in a few minutes leaving by a rear exit. Now it was dark and we left the road and headed into the countryside.

We were soon on rough, undulating ground with stumps of trees in evidence. A few words in a mixture of English and French from my companion told me that this was a battlefield of the First World War. In the silence and in little moonlight it was a somewhat eerie place.

My ankles were painful and breathing became a little uncomfortable as we walked on for perhaps a couple of miles. Eventually we arrived at an isolated house with a small front garden enclosed by a wall and wrought iron gates. A knock on the door was answered by a priest, who quickly ushered us inside. After some conversation between the two men, M. Féry departed and I was left with Monsieur L'Abbé Leon Chenôt, the rector of this tiny village of Villers-sur-Semois.

From the hall of the house a door to the left opened into a large but rather spartan dining room with scrubbed wooden-topped table. Here was L'Abbé's housekeeper M'selle Gerlache, a middle-aged lady whose face was very badly disfigured, perhaps caused by a condition called Bell's palsy. I was given a warm welcome, food and drink. By now desperately tired I was shown to a small bedroom upstairs at the back of the house where I was soon asleep in a very soft bed.

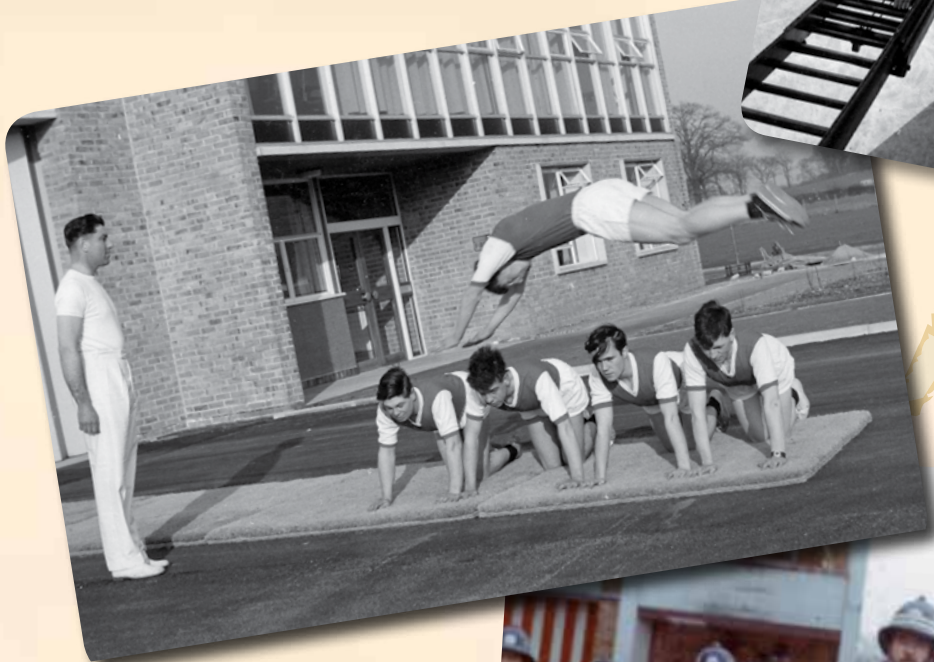
To be Continued...



Scrapbook Memories

Something to remind you of how things were in the past







Passout Parade June 1985

The Past when it was the future!

As HFRS runs its first Wholetime Recruits Course, (sorry, 'Trainees'), for 7 years, these images might remind you of how things used to be.



Station Officer Bob Ratcliffe conducts the Friday morning Dormitory Inspection. TC March 93

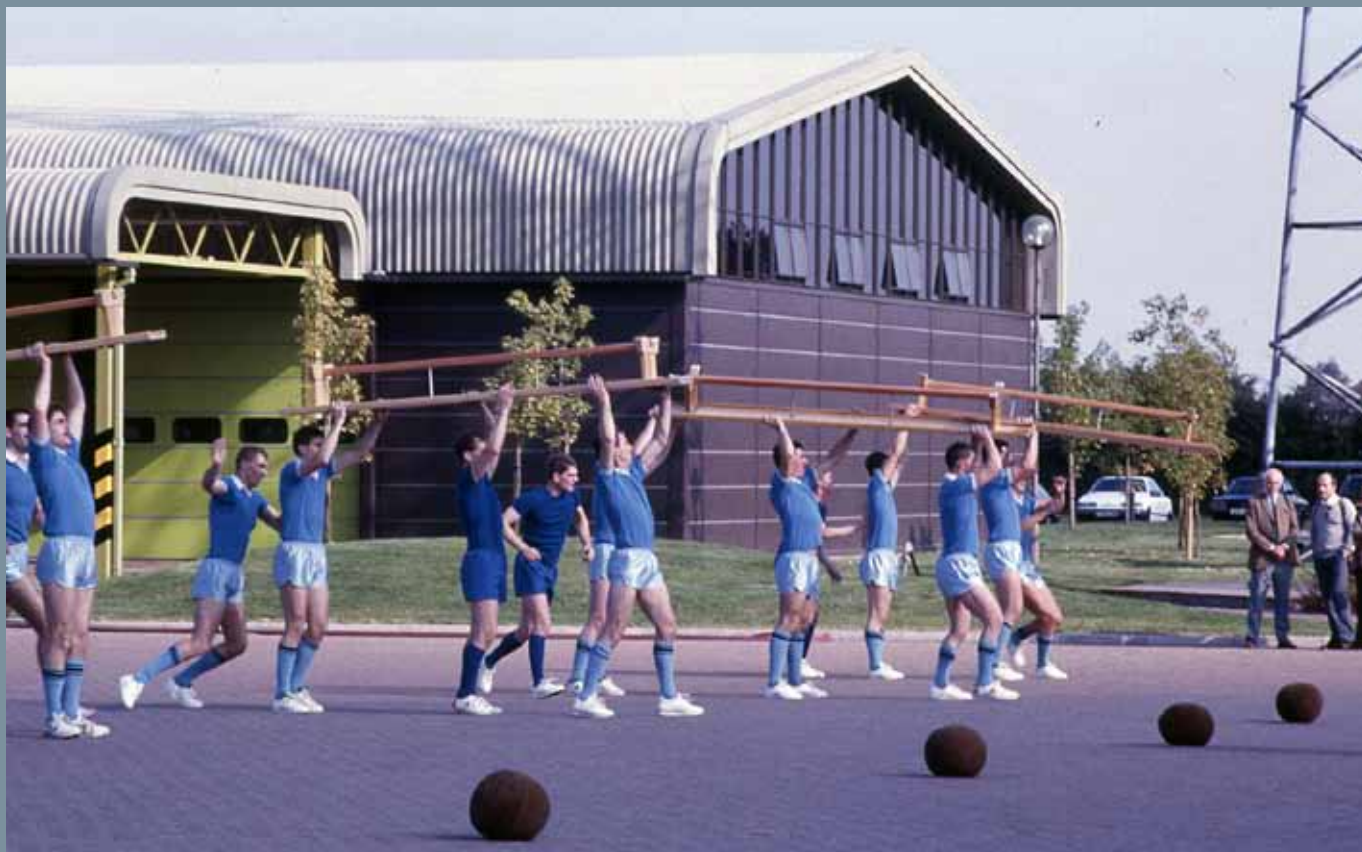
'Never mind the snow, pick up that extending line'



Recruit Selection Tests 1985

Selection tests for potential recruits, making full use of the assault course.

Station Officer Mick Stead listening intently to answers during the final exam pump operator tests 16 September 1968



Yes, they really did do PT in those outfits! 17 September 1985. TC June 1985



TC June 1985 - Things look very different behind the drill tower today

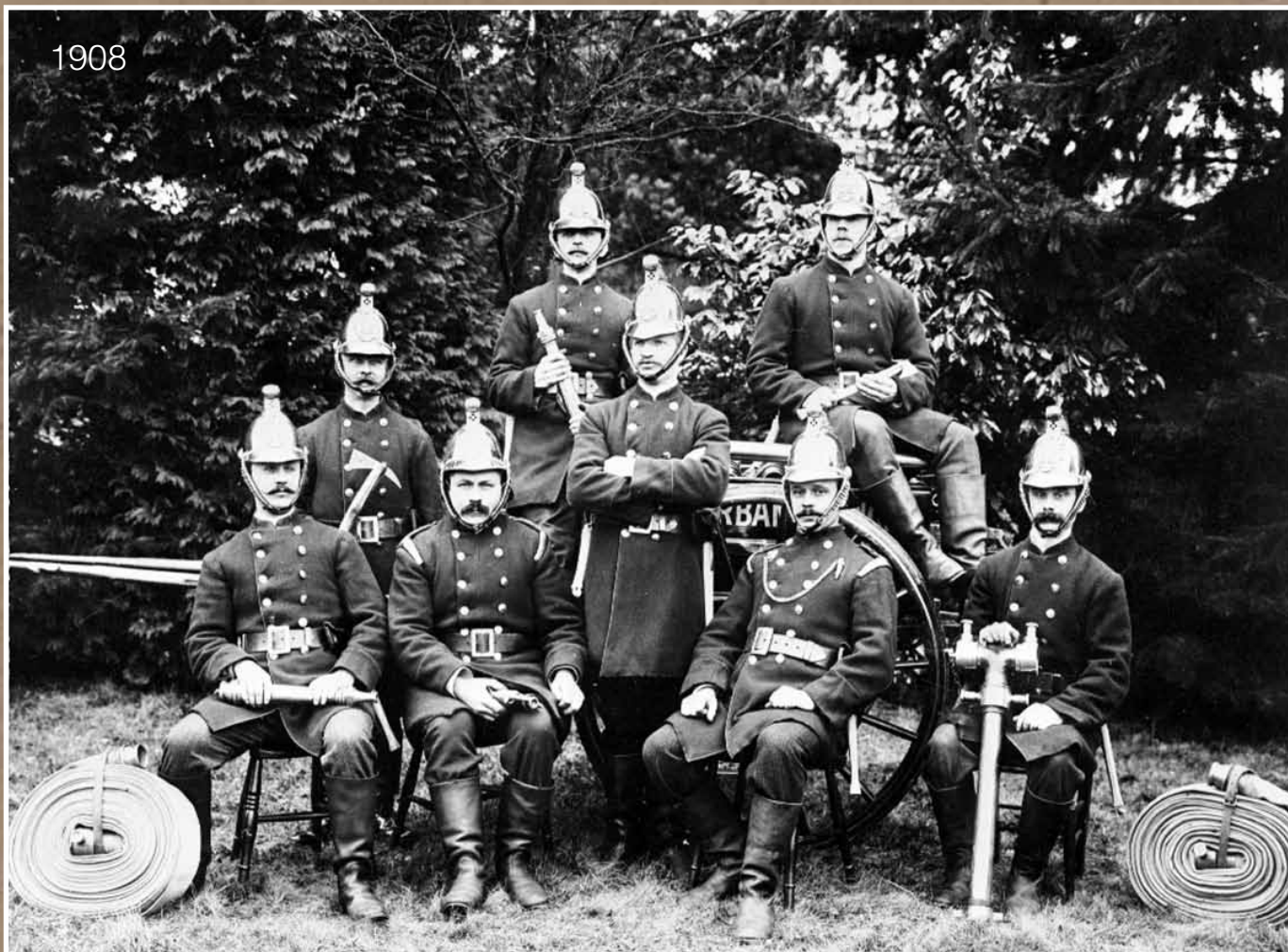


Sub Officer Jerry Leonard, taking a classroom session. Someone can tell me the date no doubt?



Alan House (Commandant) and Divisional Officer Alan Hold, marking practical drill tests
, with Sub Officers Bob Wythe and Jess Andrews 16 September 1986

1908



Past Times

Focus on Fleet Fire Station

The Fleet Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed by the Fleet Urban District Council in 1900, using a fire station in Kings Road, and then becoming Station 1Y of 14 Fire Force, as part of the National Fire Service. On creation of the Hampshire Fire Service on April 1 1948, Fleet station was designated 'A4'

The current station was handed over for operational use on 3 March 1966 after being built by FC Fairhead, at the cost of £14,924 – 6s – 0d, replacing the old wooden building originally used by the Council and the NFS.

Operating for many years as a Watertender and Land Rover station, the Watercarrier from Lyndhurst was recently relocated to Fleet to replace the Land Rover.





Circa 1972



Circa 1976



Tower construction 11 February 1966



Hose-Drying and Siren Tower May 1953



Old Station, May 1953



The second 'First Response Vehicle' now being trialled. It based on the same chassis as the first FRV but has a 4x4 capability and revised rear lockers.

HFRS Happenings

APPLIANCE UPDATE

Two WrC's have been reallocated; the first has transferred from Fordingbridge to Ringwood replacing their Watertender has been withdrawn from the station and allocated to the Reserve fleet. Ringwood were earmarked to become a one pump WrC and L4T station when the Risk Review was announced in February 2016.

The second WrC to be reallocated, has moved from Lyndhurst to Fleet replacing their Land Rover which is now a Reserve L4T.

Replacing the WrC at Lyndhurst is an Iveco Wildfire Vehicle from Rushmoor. Brockenhurst have also seen an appliance withdrawn from station, their Steyr Puch H4T which has been withdrawn from service.

The Animal Rescue Vehicle which was allocated to Basingstoke but moved to Overton when the building works commenced at Basingstoke is on the move again, this time to Winchester.

The second First Response Vehicle (FRV) based on an Iveco 70-210 4x4 chassis arrived from Emergency One in February. This appliance is being evaluated at various stations across

the county in the coming months, the first station will be Brockenhurst and the appliance is expected to be allocated there for approximately 3 months. The first FRV which was allocated to Alton is now at Hightown.

Six Volvo FLL260 appliances fitted with the full Volvo crew cab are being converted from WrL or WrT to Rescue Pump specification with the addition of a CAFS pump and other equipment. The appliances in question are WrL's HX60 GCF, Basingstoke, HX60 GCK, Rushmoor and HX60 GCO St Marys and WrT's HX60 GCU, St Marys, HX60 GCV, Winchester and HX60 GCV Andover. The first appliance to be converted was HX60 GCU, which returned to St Marys as a Rescue Pump followed by HX60 GCK which is now allocated to Training Academy, HX60 GCF is now the second RP at Basingstoke whilst currently at Emergency one is HX60 GCO which is due to go to Cosham and the remaining two from Andover and Winchester will go to Cosham and Hayling island.

The replacement Rescue Pump for the written off Winchester appliance has arrived. HX66 ADV is the first Euro 6 engined Volvo in the fleet and should be on the run at Fordingbridge during April. No other appliances are currently on order.



Iveco Wildfire Vehicle, which has been reallocated from Rushmoor to Lyndhurst.



Photo 3 Now allocated to Winchester is the Animal Rescue Vehicle, previously at Basingstoke



Photo 4 Rear shot of second FRV

INCIDENTS

13 November - Make pumps 8. Former Blockbuster video store, Shirley High Street, Southampton. ToC 20:24. ToS 00:22. Fire involving mid terrace of traditional construction of two floors with pitched roof consisting of office and residential accommodation. Ground and first floor 80% by fire. 5 jets, 3 hose reels, UHPL and PPV in use. Attendance RP and RSV Redbridge, WrL, IRC and ALP St Marys, RP, WrT, FoU and CSV Eastleigh, RP Hightown, WrT Botley, WrL and EPU Romsey, CSV Portchester and ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves WrL Wickham to Hightown, WrT Winchester to Eastleigh, WrT Romsey to Redbridge, WrT Hightown to St Marys. Relief crews WrT Southsea, WrL Cosham and RP Fareham.

27 November - Make pumps 8. Initial call to a fire in rubbish bin behind Sue Ryder shop, Meeting House Lane, Ringwood. PDA: L4T Ringwood. ToC 07:50. ToS 11:27. On arrival Make Pumps 5 ALP required. Fire involving building of 34m x 25m of three floors of traditional construction used as retail premises. Fire in first and second floors and roof, 100% of compartment by fire, 30% of ground floor water damage, 2BA, 4 jets, 1 CAFS jet, ALP monitor. Attendance from Hampshire FRS - RP and L4T Ringwood, WrL Burley, WrL Fordingbridge, WrL Lymington, RP and RSV Redbridge, ICU Headquarters, CSV Beaulieu, CSV and FoU Eastleigh. From Dorset and Wiltshire FRS WrL/R Ferndown, Christchurch, Verwood, Springbourne, WrL/R and ALP Westbourne. Stand by moves WrT New Milton to Ringwood, WrL/R Poole to Springbourne and WrL/R Wimborne to Verwood.

12 December - Make pumps 10, Thatch roof fire, Sharpes Farm, Lower Street, Braishfield. ToC 12:21. ToS 19:50. Fire involving range of thatched roof cottages, 30m x 20m in L shape configuration. 60BA, CAFS, 3 jets, 2 hose reels. Attendance - WrL, WrT and EPU Romsey, RP, WrT, FoU and CSU Eastleigh, RP and RSV Redbridge, RP and IRC St Marys, RP Winchester, RP Basingstoke (RSV support), RP Hightown, RP Andover, CSV Beaulieu, CSV Portchester and ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves WrT Basingstoke to Winchester, WrLR Amesbury (Dorset and Wiltshire FRS) to Andover, WrL Hythe to Redbridge, WrL Bishops Waltham to Eastleigh, RP Fareham to St Marys,

14 December - Make pumps 8, WrC 7, ALP required. Fleet Services, Southbound carriageway, M3 Motorway. ToC 22:25. ToS 14:05. Fire involving L shaped commercial building 80m x 80m. 75% involved in fire. 6 jets, CAFS jets, ALP monitor, 40 BA. Attendance WrL Hartley Wintney, WrT and WrC Fleet, WrT Yateley, WrL Odiham, IRC, WrT and CSV Rushmoor, WrL x 2 Camberley (Surrey FRS), ICU Headquarters, ALP, RP, RSV and CSV Basingstoke, WrC's Bordon, Andover, Eastleigh, Fareham, Leatherhead (Surrey FRS), Guildford (Surrey FRS), TL Guildford also attended but was replaced by Basingstoke's ALP, FoU Eastleigh, EPU Romsey. Stand by moves IRC Basingstoke to Rushmoor and WrT Bordon to Fleet.

Ed – yes, that's correct – 'Make Water Carriers 7'!

21 December - Make pumps 10. Impress Dry Cleaners, Albert Road, Southsea. ToC 05:57. ToS 09:36. Fire involving three storey building used as laundrette with two flats above. Laundrette 100% by fire, roof and first floor 20% by fire, second flat 50% by smoke and water. 46BA, 6 jets, 2 hose reels. Attendance RP, IRC and WrT Southsea, WrL, WrT and RSV Cosham, RP and WrL Havant, RP Fareham, WrT Hightown, RP Redbridge (RSV Support), ALP St Marys, CSV Portchester, ICU Headquarters, EPU Romsey and FoU Eastleigh. Stand by moves WrL Bishops Waltham to Cosham, WrL Hythe to Redbridge and WrT Horndean to Southsea.

29 December - Make pumps 6. Barn fire, Barton Stacey. ToC 16:20. Fire involving barn 60m x 40m containing hay. Crews detained over 24 hours damping down and allowing fire to burn out under control. Attendance RP and WrT Andover, WrT Sutton Scotney, RP Winchester, WrT Overton, RP Basingstoke, WrC Eastleigh and Fareham, CSV Rushmoor, ICU Headquarters. Relief crews WrT Droxford, WrT Hamble, RP Fareham, RP Redbridge, WrT Beaulieu, IRC Basingstoke, WrT Romsey and WrT Sutton Scotney.

29 January - Make pumps 8. Chewton Glen Hotel, Christchurch Road, New Milton. ToC 00:07. ToS 02:55. Fire involving laundry room of hotel, water damage to ground floor from failed heating system, environmental measures in place for damping down. 24 BA, 2 hose reels, 1 jet. Attendance WrL and WrT New Milton, RP and WrL Lymington, WrC Ringwood, CSV Beaulieu, CSV and FoU Eastleigh, ICU Headquarters, RSV and RP Redbridge, EPU Romsey, L4T Burley and from Dorset and Wiltshire FRS WrL/R and WrT Christchurch, WrL/R and ALP Westbourne, WrL/R Springbourne, WrT and ISU Poole.

10 February - Make pumps 6. Nxtera Ltd, The Briars, Waterberry Drive, Waterlooville. ToC 00:12 ToS 04:01. Fire involving building 50m x 30 of traditional construction used as offices. 1st floor and roof 100% damaged by fire, ground floor 50% damaged by fire. 12BA, 5 jets, ALP monitor in use. Attendance WrL and WrT Waterlooville, WrL and WrT Cosham, RP Havant, IRC Southsea, WrC Bordon and Eastleigh, ICU Headquarters, CSV Portchester. Relief crews RP Fareham and WrT Southsea.

11 February - Make pumps 6, The Little House, Stanbridge Lane, Awbridge. ToC 20:46 ToS 23:15. Fire involving house of traditional construction 10m x 10m. 50% of roof and 100% of first floor damaged by fire, 100% of ground floor damaged by smoke and water. 6BA, 2 hose reels, PPV and 10.5m ladders in use. Attendance WrL and WrT Romsey, RP St Marys, RP Redbridge, WrT Totton, RP Eastleigh, CSV Eastleigh, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves WrL Hythe to Redbridge, WrL Stockbridge to Romsey and WrT Botley to Eastleigh.

17 February - Make pumps 6, ALP required. Leaside Way, Southampton. ToC 19:03 ToS 23:39. Row of four domestic dwellings 27m x 7m, 100% involved in fire, 2BA, 3 jets, 1 hose reel, PPV. Attendance RP CSV Eastleigh, RP IRC ALP St Marys, RP WrT Hightown and RP Redbridge, ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves WrL Romsey to Redbridge, WrT Hamble to Hightown,

WrL Cosham and WrT Eastleigh to St Marys, RP Winchester to Eastleigh and IRC Basingstoke to Winchester. Relief crews WrL Cosham and IRC Basingstoke.

25 February - Make pumps 10, The Round House, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth. ToC 12:58. Severe fire involving flat on fourth floor of high rise building. Attendance RP, IRC, WrT and ALP Southsea, WrL and WrT Cosham, RP and WrL Fareham, WrL Gosport, WrL Wickham, WrL and WrT Havant, RP and RSV Redbridge, CSV Portchester, ICU Headquarters, FoU Eastleigh. Relief crews WrL Bishops Waltham and WrT Hamble.

2 April - Thatch roof fire, PDA Attendance only. Luzborough Lane, Romsey. ToC 18:12. Fire involving thatch property of two floors, 10m x 5m, fire involving 25% of thatch around chimney. Thatch around chimney being removed to expose hotspots, 4 CAFS jets, 1 safety jet, 2 BA, Salvage in progress. Attendance RP and RSV Redbridge, RP and IRC St Marys, WrT Totton, RP, WrT, WrC, CSV, FoU Eastleigh, RP Hightown, EPU Alton, CSV Beaulieu, WrL Cosham (RSV Support Crew), ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves RP Fareham to St Marys, RP Southsea to Hightown, WrT Botley to Redbridge, RP Winchester to Eastleigh and WrT Sutton Scotney to Winchester.

9 April - Make pumps 10, High Rise Incident, Redbridge Towers, Cuckmere Lane, Southampton. ToC 17:25 ToS 20:27. Fire involving flat on 12th floor of 20 storey block of flats measuring 30m x 30m. Flat 100% damaged by fire, adjacent flat 10% by fire, water damage to 2 flats on floor below. 4 jets, 26BA, ALP in use. Attendance RP RSV Redbridge, RP, IRC and ALP St Marys, RP, WrT, CSU, FoU Eastleigh, WrL Hythe, RP Hardley, RP and WrL Fareham, WrT and CSU Beaulieu, WrT Cosham (RSV Support), FRC Hightown (Requested for additional Cobra UHPL System), EPU Alton and ICU Headquarters.

20 April - Make pumps 10, ALP 2, WrC 2. JJ Autos, Empress Road,

Southampton. ToC 11:43. Fire involving 4 commercial premises of various uses including vehicle workshop. All persons accounted for. Offensive fire fighting in progress, 2 ALP monitors, 6 ground monitors, 1 jet, 2 CAFS jets, 2 hose reels. Attendance RP, IRC and ALP St Marys, RP and RSV Redbridge, RP and WrT Hightown, WrL Headquarters, RP and FoU Eastleigh, RP Fareham from stand by at St Marys, WrT Cosham from stand by at Hightown, WrL Romsey from standby at Redbridge, RP Winchester from stand by at St Marys, CSV's from Portchester and Beaulieu, ICU Headquarters, WrL Cosham as RSV support crew. Stand by moves RP Basingstoke and WrT Southsea to St Marys, WrL Wickham to Hightown, WrL Liphook to Fareham, WrL Stockbridge to Romsey, RP Lymington to Eastleigh and RP Rushmoor to Winchester.

23 April - Make pumps 8, ALP 2. Britannia Fish and Chip shop, The Hard, Portsmouth. ToC 19:26. ToS 22:43. Fire involving commercial building, 10m x 40m consisting of fish and chip shop on ground floor and three residential flats above over three floors. Fire in ducting at second and third floor level. Fire spread into roof space and flat roof. Cutting away in progress. 3 jets, 2 hose reels, 8BA. Attendance RP, IRC, WrT and ALP Southsea, WrL, WrT and RSV Cosham, RP Havant from standby at Southsea, RP Fareham, WrT and CSV Portchester, CSV and FoU Eastleigh, RP Redbridge (RSV Support), ALP St Marys, EPU Romsey and ICU Headquarters. Stand by moves WrT Emsworth to Southsea and WrT Horndean to Cosham.

23 April - Make pumps 6, ALP and WrC required. Stanmore House, Edward Road, Winchester. ToC 21:19. ToS 04:01. Fire involving detached period property consisting of 2 floors and roof space, 20m x 20m. Roof 100% by fire, first floor 70% by fire, water damage to 90% of whole

property. 2 BA, 3 jets, 1 hose reel. Attendance RP Winchester, RP, WrT and CSV Eastleigh, IRC St Marys, RP Redbridge, WrT Hightown from stand by at Winchester, ALP and CSV Basingstoke, WrC Andover. Stand by moves WrT Totton to Redbridge, WrL Romsey to Eastleigh, WrT Sutton Scotney to Winchester.

6 May - A35 Holmsley. Fire involving 4 hectares of undergrowth, Woolmer Road, Whitehill, Bordon. ToC 12:03. Attendance WrT Bordon, WrT Grayshott, L4T Liphook, L4T Haslemere (Surrey FRS), WrC Fareham, L4T Alton, L4T Havant, CSV Rushmoor and ICU Headquarters.

7 May - Make pumps 5, Land Rover 4, WrC 2. Fire involving 20 hectares of heath and gorse, 10 hose reels, 1 jet, beaters and knapsack pumps in use. ToC 13:23. ToS 17:41. Attendance WrL and L4P Burley, RP, WrC and L4T Ringwood, WrL and WrT New Milton, CSV Beaulieu, WrC Eastleigh, ICU Headquarters and from Dorset and Wiltshire FRS WrT and L4T Christchurch and L4T Verwood.

7 May - Make pumps 12, Thatch roof, Bethany Cottage, The Common, Damerham. ToC 16:25. Fire involving thatch cottage 10m x 15m, 100 involved in fire. Attendance WrL Fordingbridge, WrT Hightown from stand by at Ringwood, WrC and CSV Eastleigh, RP and RSV Redbridge, FRV Brockenhurst, EPU Romsey, CSV Portchester, ICU Headquarters. From Dorset and Wiltshire FRS WrL/R Cranborne, WrL/R Verwood, WrL/R Ferndown, WrL/R Springbourne, WrL/R and WrT Wimborne, WrC Christchurch, WrL/R and ISU Salisbury, WrL/R Amesbury and WrL/R Poole from standby at Ferndown. Stand by moves RP Lymington to Redbridge, RP Eastleigh to Fordingbridge and WrT Botley to Eastleigh.

OTHER NEWS

A new seven Group operational command structure was introduced on the 1 April, this replaced the nine groups that had been in existence since the demise of the three divisional structure many years ago. The new groups are North Hampshire, New Forest, Portsmouth, Havant and East Hampshire, Southampton, Winchester, Test Valley and Eastleigh, Fareham and Gosport.

Recent Principal Officer moves have included ACO Steve Apter (previously the CFO, Isle of Wight) who has been promoted to Deputy Fire Commissioner, London Fire Brigade and, within HFRS, two temporary ACO positions; Area manager Stew Adamson to ACO and Director of Blue Light Collaboration and Shantha Dickinson, former head of Knowledge Management to ACO and Director of Community safety and Resilience. Having graduated as a commissioned army officer at Sandhurst Military Academy she served in the Intelligence Corps and after a decade of moving around the country with the military, she moved into the world of local politics, being in charge of information governance and security for West Sussex County Council for four years. She then joined Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in 2014 to build and head up a new department to critically analyse data and information to help improve performance and contribute to the shaping of a more modern fire service.

Ed – Members may recall that Hampshire, in 1987, appointed Sheelagh Douglas who held the position of ACO. Regarded as being very progressive for the era.

Isle of Wight

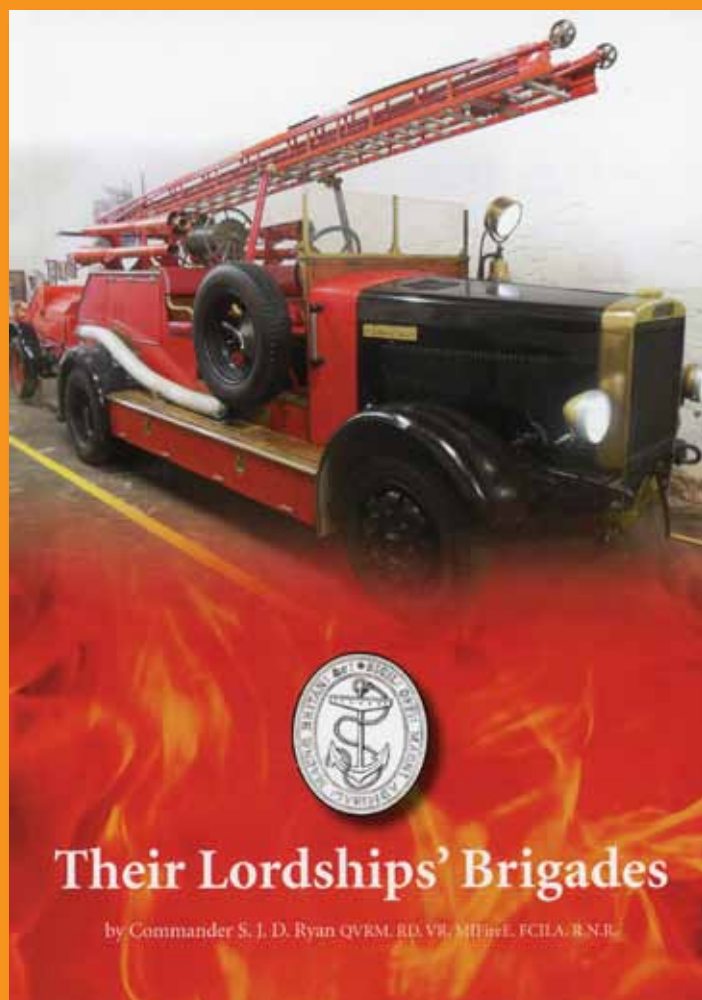
As from the 30 March Hampshire's Control Room is responsible for call handling and mobilising for the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, (ending the previous contract with Surrey FRS), and as such all stations on the island have been allocated new station numbers. The new identifications are as follows –

71 Newport - 72 Cowes - 73 East Cowes
74 Ryde - 75 Bembridge - 76 Sandown
77 Shanklin - 78 Ventnor - 79 Freshwater
80 Yarmouth

Ed – the Isle of Wight still has an independent FRS but many of their functions are managed by Hampshire including senior officer positions.

Colin Carter – Guest Contributor

Snippets



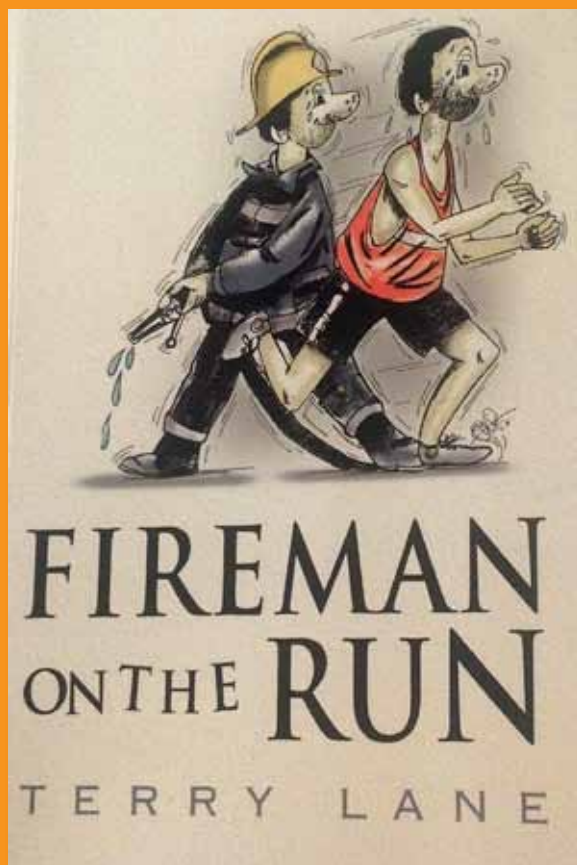
Book Review

‘Their Lordships’ Brigades’

Author Simon Ryan
ISBN 978-1-5272-0143-9
Available on EBay

A new book telling the story of the Fire Brigades that have protected HM Dockyards in the UK and at RN bases around the world.

Just 69 pages, but packed full of information about how the Royal Navy protected its shore establishments. A useful reference book with, of course, relevance to Hampshire, given the Naval presence throughout the county over many years.
Alan House



Book Review

‘Fireman on the Run’ by Terry Lane

Formerly of 53 Redbridge and latterly the Brigade Chaplain, Terry has penned a diary based reflection on his journey from potential wheel chair user to completing the London Marathon. This delightful and amusing paperback charts a voyage of sheer grit and determination when medics were predicting disability and life changing surgery. Terry catalogues how he set his sights on proving the medics wrong, returning to duty and crossing that famous line after the twenty six and a half mile slog round London. The account is peppered with Fire Service anecdotes and customary humour which even the longest retirees will fondly recall. This well written, very affordable and reflective tale is a relaxing read and difficult to put down. It is now, deservedly on its second print and is thoroughly recommended. A Sequel, ‘Fireman in the Pulpit’ is set to follow Terry on another epic journey from Firefighter to Priest - My order is in!

Fireman on the Run, Published by Brown Dog Books, is available from October Books in Portswood Southampton or on Amazon or why not get a signed copy direct from Terry at £6.50 by contacting him on - e.lane30@ntlworld.com
Eric Hounslow

Final Salute



It is with regret that we record the death of the following past members of the Service:



Lest we forget



On Wednesday 3 May, fifty PMA members, partners and friends boarded a coach at 9am in Winchester and then Basingstoke for another day in London. The plan was for 25 to enjoy the hit musical '42nd Street' at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and the other 25 going to see the other hit musical 'An American in Paris' at the Dominion Theatre. Both matinee shows lived up to their rave reviews and nobody seemed disappointed with their choices.

En-route, the first stop was Harrods, for the wealthier of our members, for some shopping and food; others continued to the Houses of Parliament and Covent Garden.

London was buzzing and appeared to be as busy as ever, with crowds watching the changing of the Guards at Horse Guards and at Downing Street it was busy with press and media standing on their ladders awaiting the Prime Ministers press statement.

Street entertainers were all around Covent Garden and were performing their magic for the tourists. After the shows, supper was sought in the many Covent Garden restaurants and followed by a steady walk or in some cases a tap dance along the Embankment prior to the return trip at 7.30 back to just in time for our "cocoa" and bed. Another Grand Day Out!

