

New Marksman

Issue 36 **Funded by the Baily Thomas Provident Fund** SUMMER 2018



Another sad parting;
the much-loved
George Powell (1931-
2018) Full details
inside.



Mansfield Brewery Walking Group

The walks are held on the second Sunday of each month, commencing at 10.30 a.m and normally finish around 2.30 p.m.

They are generally easy walks between 5 and 6 miles.

For information contact Barbara Brown on 01623 481488

Mansfield Brewery Members' Association

The Members' Association is open to all former employees of the Mansfield Brewery Group of Companies. The Association's monthly meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Debdale Sports Club, Mansfield Woodhouse commencing at 10.00 a.m.

The Committee organises monthly coach excursions which are open to all members and friends. The excursions depart from the Debdale Sports Club, Mansfield Woodhouse where there is easy car parking.

If you wish to join any excursion please contact Graham Cooling on 01623 632620

The Baily Thomas Provident Fund Office

The office is open Monday to Thursday every week [except holidays] and is staffed by Denise Wilson and Alison Whitmore who are the interface between the beneficiaries and the trustees. John Else works on a consultancy basis for the Trust and can be contacted via the office.

Contact details are as follows:

Tel: 01623 473290

Baily Thomas Provident Fund
Chadburn House
Weighbridge Road
Littleworth,
Mansfield.NG18 1AH



New Marksman

The New Marksman Magazine
This magazine aims to give news and information about the activities of the former employees of Mansfield Brewery and the existing Sports and Social opportunities available for all former employees.

Please send information to:

Roy Bainton
13 West Hill Avenue
Mansfield Notts NG18 1PQ
Telephone 01623 646070
07712973872

Email – roybainton@hotmail.com

Any information, articles or photographs not included in this issue will be used in forthcoming editions of the New Marksman

What's in your
Summer 2018
new marksman

ISSUE 36

Farewell to George Powell (1932-2018)

Including an appreciation by
Barbara Brown and an extract
from George's Funeral Eulogy.



MBC Nostalgia with
Those Were the Days



**Remembering
Hull Brewery**



**Part 2 of the late Bert
Dopson's memoir.**

**Dinner & Dance
Pictures**

All this and much more -

Don't forget we'd like to hear
from you, too; those special
occasions, family events,
memories, pictures, either call
me on

01623 646070, or
e-mail

roybainton@hotmail.com

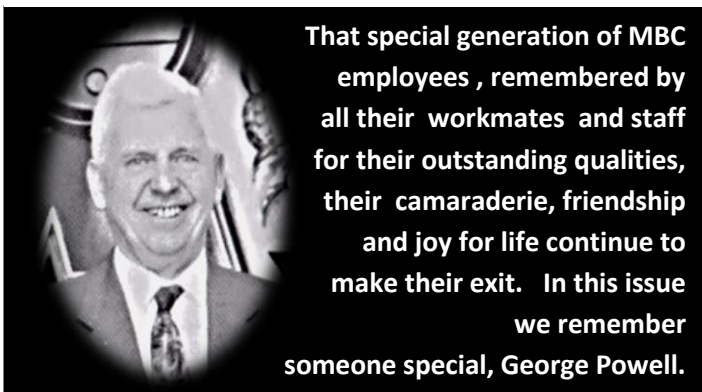
or by post to
13 West Hill Ave.,
Mansfield NG18 1PQ



WHO'S DANCING? NOT THESE TWO!

Your portly editor, (above in the blue suit) hasn't cut a rug on the dance floor for many a year. (It would require a reinforced floor and a warning to the emergency services.) So he was intrigued at this year's annual Dinner and Dance to find that the Fretwell Sports Complex had something called a 'Quiet Room'. In this inner sanctum he discovered just two occupants; the distinctive sartorial figure of Walt, who was relaxing with his lady chauffeur. He was happy to share a sofa with your Marksman helmsman whilst his chauffeur took this picture. You'll see him again with his trusty driver on page 9.

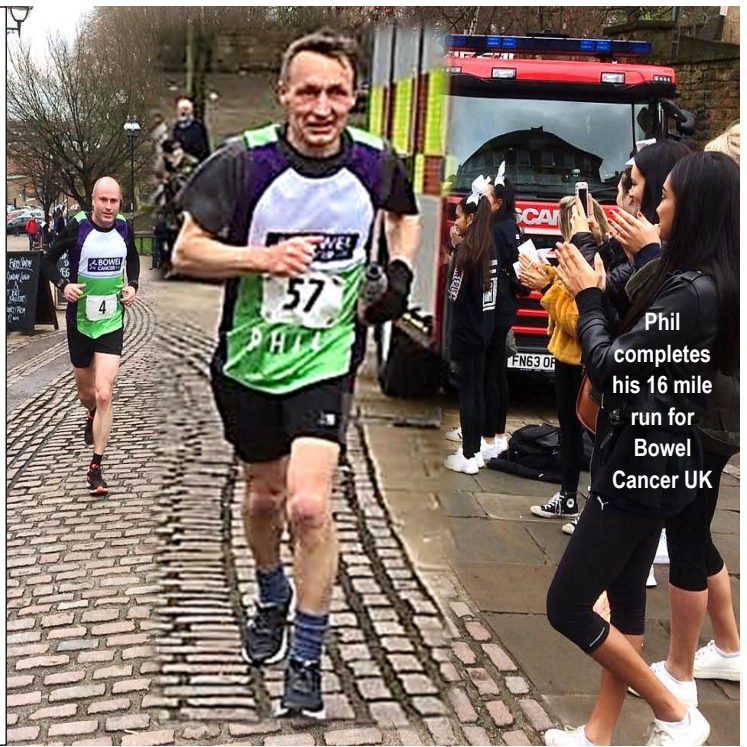
Also, ever since my first edition of Marksman I've been trying to find space for my little piece on Hull Brewery, something close to my heart and stomach, so I've finally managed to fit this in. I have to thank many contributors who keep the news flowing in, Ian Boucher and Barbara Brown in particular. So if you're out and about with fellow readers don't forget to take your camera and send us a few words, too.



That special generation of MBC
employees, remembered by
all their workmates and staff
for their outstanding qualities,
their camaraderie, friendship
and joy for life continue to
make their exit. In this issue
we remember
someone special, George Powell.

PHIL STEPS IT OUT

57 year old Philip Haynes worked for Home Brewery, Nottingham for 19 years from 1977 up to its closure in 1996. In May 1996 he joined Mansfield Brewery as a Warehouseman at the Oakham Distribution Centre. He's continued working there since the takeover. Super-fit Phil's originally from Arnold, Nottingham and now lives in Chaddesden, Derby with Mandy.



Above: Phil, No. 57, arrives at Nottingham Castle Gate house.



On Saturday 10th March 2018 over 150 runners including Phil ran 16 miles from East Midlands Airport to Nottingham Castle for BOWEL CANCER UK.

Over £15,000 would be raised when all the Sponsorship was collected. Here are the runners at the start at East Midlands Airport. The run was organised by charity runner Regina O'Reilly who sets up running events for charity all over the world.

Mansfield Brewery Members Association A.G.M 2018

Chairman retires after 23 years on Committee



Val Moss, Jenny Hall, Graham Cooling, Margaret Tasker, Dennis Tasker, Ian Boucher, Bill Donbavand

The Mansfield Brewery Members Association AGM was held on Thursday, 8th March, at Rosemary Street Baptist Hall Mansfield. 28 members attended.

The retiring Chairman, Dennis Tasker, opened the meeting and welcomed the members.

Dennis had been a Committee member for 23 years, and had been Chairman for the last 16 years. Retirement gifts of malt whisky and garden plants were presented to Dennis and wife Margaret

Treasurer Ian Boucher was nominated to be the next chairman, and to retain the treasurer's position. Officers and Committee Members agreed to continue in office and no new nominations for committee were received.

Secretary Graham Cooling presented a gift of wine to Joe Crosby for his work in auditing the accounts.

The evening concluded with a buffet followed by an entertaining picture quiz.



Mansfield Brewery Members Association 2018 Outings



North Yorks Railway/Whitby
Temple Newsam Leeds
Saltaire
York Chocolate Story
Wensleydale Creamery ,Hawes
Birmingham
Castle Howard
Social Evening
Christmas Lunch, Boundary, South Normanton

Wednesday 16th May
Thursday 14th June
Wednesday 18th July
Thursday 2nd August
Monday 10th September
Tuesday 9th October
Thursday 2th November
Thursday 15th November
Tuesday 4th December

This year's coach excursions are
organized and we are
travelling by Glen Ryder coaches



A TREASURED TIMEPIECE

Peter Cooper, who worked for over 35 years for R. L. Jones, Mandora and Mansfield Brewery has sent us this picture of a treasured possession. Says Peter: .
"This is the watch Mr. Lyle Jones gave me for 15 year service back in 1969 only two weeks before he got killed in a car crash and I have treasured it all these years, he was a good man! I worked there 1953 to 1988 and I have many happy memories of all the time I spent with R. L. Jones , Mandora, Brewery etc."

CLEANING STAFF SAY 'YES'



OFFICE Cleaning super- videss Pam Murfitt heads a team of nine ladies.

And they all agree Serving Quality has been a success.

They are meeting the standards they agreed with staff. But they aren't yet viewed as customers themselves – and the informal standards they've set aren't being met.

Appreciative

"As we work after normal hours we feel we may have been taken for granted. But since the introduction of Serving Quality people seem to be far more appreciative of our work," said Pam. "There are a few simple things that staff could do to help us."

To set their standards the cleaners sent a questionnaire to every department.

"We didn't really receive any complaints so setting standards was quite difficult. However, we managed to come up with four – based on one-off comments."

These are:

- Checking equipment daily
- Dusting cupboard tops weekly
- Disinfecting telephones monthly
- Cleaning kitchens and toilets daily

Recently the cleaners sent a follow-up questionnaire. The feedback was good and showed that the standards are being met thanks to two-way co-operation.

Pam added: "There's always room for improvement and this is why we think it's so important that Serving Quality is an ongoing initiative.

"We are very happy with the way Serving Quality is working for us, but there are three simple tasks that staff could do to make our job much easier."

The Tasks

- **Taking all coffee cups to the vending area and emptying half empty cups.**
- **Making sure windows are closed and locked at the end of the day.**
- **Placing waste, like yoghurt pots and crisp packets into the white bins in the vending area.**

**THOSE WERE
THE DAYS**

Summer 1995



Ladies - do you recognise yourselves in these pictures? They demonstrate just how important both running the offices were - and keeping them clean!

WELCOME



Head Office Starters

Karen Trotter - Accounts Payable Clerk 31.3.95 (pictured above centre)
Sue Wood - Personnel Manager 24.4.95

Rosemary Mooney - Taxation Account 9.5.95 (pictured above left)
Katherine Moss - Brand Manager 30.5.95 (pictured above right)
Tina Gutteridge - Recruitment Officer 30.5.95

IT'S DINNER & DANCE TIME AGAIN!

Good food,
good
company and
plenty of
laughs

Another great
night was enjoyed
by all on Saturday
March 24 at the
Fretwell Sports
Complex.



AND SOME
FINE, BRAVE
DANCING
STYLES!



The City of Culture comes to
Mansfield - those red bow ties
signify guests from HULL!



**MORE
DINING,
MORE
DANCING!**



Walt and his driver

**You've heard of
the waltz,
foxtrot, the
mashed potato
and the boogaloo
- here's the one
hand in the
pocket style - as
cool as it gets!**



REMEMBERING GEORGE POWELL (1931-2018)

GOODBYE AND THANKS

JOE CROSBY, George Powell and Peter Witham have 'bowed' out after 101 years with the brewery.

They've all seen the company grow from a small family business to the leading independent it is today.

Peter, 61, retires from Stock Control and Transport Administration after an amazing 44 years. He recalls: "I joined the company just after the war in 1949 when I was 17 years old. My first week's wage packet came to 39shillings and 6pence.

"The office was like something out of Dickens' Scrooge, with tall wooden desks plus ink wells and high stools.

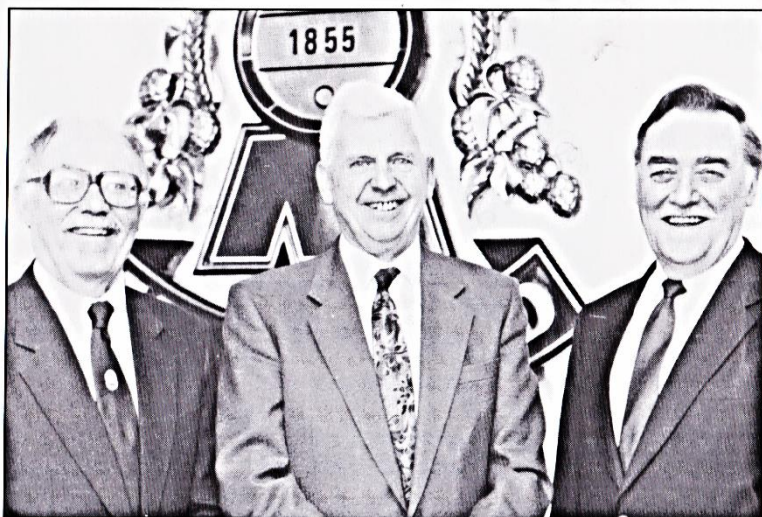
Strict

"I had to carry out all the ledger work by hand and balance it to the last penny every day. Also there were only 32 office staff in those days compared to 200 now."

He added: "Claude Chadburn and Harry Jarvis were joint managing directors. And there was very strict office policy. I remember being told off in my first week for not addressing Mr Jarvis as 'Sir' even though I didn't know who he was at the time."

Back in 1949 the brewery only traded in Mansfield and Chesterfield and employed two reps to cover the area. There were only three managed houses compared to 169 today.

"When I started, Mansfield



● ABOVE: From left Joe Crosby, George Powell and Peter Witham.

only brewed cask-conditioned mild and bitter. There was no lager and no keg beers.

"The company employed 'coopers' who handmade casks out of inch thick Russian oak. Now they've been replaced by metal containers," said Peter.

George, 63, leaves the Wages Department after 32 years. He's seen many changes too including decimalisation and the introduction of computers. "When I joined the company I earned 10shillings a week more than when I was at the coal board. I was really excited

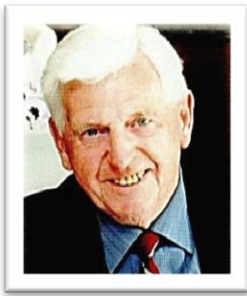
because my wife and I could plan to buy a house and have holidays."

Company treasurer Joe, 64, is retiring after 25 years. But he's only been based at headquarters since 1985. Joe joined Cavenham Food which subsequently became T W Beach, Evesham and then Mandora in 1980.

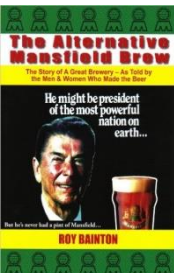
He said: "I've worked for many companies but Mansfield has been the most friendly and rewarding."

This extract (above) from the 1994 issue of *Marksman* amply demonstrates the high regard employees like George Powell warranted from both management and staff. He was a man who gave us happy memories.





A man of stile - here's one he made for Barbara.



A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR: When I was writing the book, *The Alternative Mansfield Brew* in 2008, one name featured in the index (on 5 pages) more than others; George Powell. We mentioned George's wife, Mavis, joining the cellar services at MBC, and the fact the Michael Powell, George's cousin, worked for the company as a tanker driver. Later in 1985 George's daughter Helen joined MBC. As the Brewery's wages office supervisor, George always quipped that he'd always been 'in the money' - Indeed, he'd spent 13 years as wages clerk at Sherwood Colliery and during his National Service even worked as a 'demob' wages clerk. So the name Powell represents a colourful and well-loved dynasty - George was truly one of MBC's beloved cornerstones.

George Powell: an appreciation by Barbara Brown

George would have been 87 on the 30th April this year.

He used to organise the Barn Dances in The Cellar Bar. These were hilarious, especially after a few drinks had been consumed! A fantastic buffet used to be produced by George and Mavis for these events. They have also been keen supporters of the Walking Group, including the weekends away, for many years. Some of the walks they took us on used to take place in the evening, after work, in the old days and we often used to call for a pie & pea or fish & chip supper somewhere afterwards, washed down of course with a few glasses of Mansfield Bitter!

George used to make stiles for friends if they were celebrating a special occasion, picking up the stones as he walked through the countryside and personalising them to the walk that person led. I was lucky enough to receive one of these on my 50th Birthday, the stile pointer reads "Foolow" which was the village in Derbyshire from where Alan and I started our walk from that month.

I have always loved this stile and shall treasure it always, as I am sure other lucky recipients will. (Photo above.).

On the walks, George used to give marks out of 10 for sightings of wildlife, birdlife and especially aeroplanes having been in the RAF. I cannot personally remember anyone ever receiving the coveted 10 but if you came even close, you would have been a very proud walk leader.

He also used to deduct marks for mud, stiles, rain and especially unruly dogs, one of which we were the owners of until she learnt how to behave in accordance to George's rules! He would tell you at the end of the walk that you were definitely going to receive one of his infamous "Solicitors Letters" I can't quite remember the name of this firm, but it was along the lines of Gettum, Gottam and Catchem Ltd.!!

George was a one off, a true Mansfield Brewery character and a really fine gentleman who will be remembered in our conversations for ever.



GEORGE POWELL'S FUNERAL EULOGY.

Many of you attended George's funeral on April 18th. George had dementia and he spent his final months in Woodleigh Christian Care home, where Helen Curzon works as Chaplain. Helen gave a splendid eulogy, assisted by George's daughters, Helen and Gail. We are privileged to include An edited extract from this here. It paints a full picture of a much-loved man who will always be remembered.

In his younger days he enrolled in the Air Training Corps, was Head Choir boy at St Edmunds Church Mansfield Woodhouse where he spent many Saturdays singing at weddings, he also did his best to join in with the singing of hymns at Woodleigh when we had services too. He played numerous sports including football, Tennis, Cricket and League Table Tennis and was lucky enough to win many trophies.

He attended Yorke Street School where he was made a prefect and it was here that Mavis would first see him along the crowded corridors. But it was a while later that they met at a local Youth club and started dating. Upon leaving school George started his working life in a stocking factory in Mansfield. His next job was in the offices at Sherwood Colliery. George was called to do his National Service, serving with the Royal Airforce, initially signing for 18mths but extending it to two years. George thoroughly enjoyed his time in the Air force and this is where he met his two great buddies Arthur Seed and Ron Moss who with their wives would become lifelong friends of George and Mavis. Serving in the Royal Air force was a proud time for both George and his family and considered staying in the air force and making it his career, but he had to consider Mavis back home. In the years that followed it was evident that George still had a passion for the Air Force as he always took his family to the annual air show at RAF Finningley where he had been based.

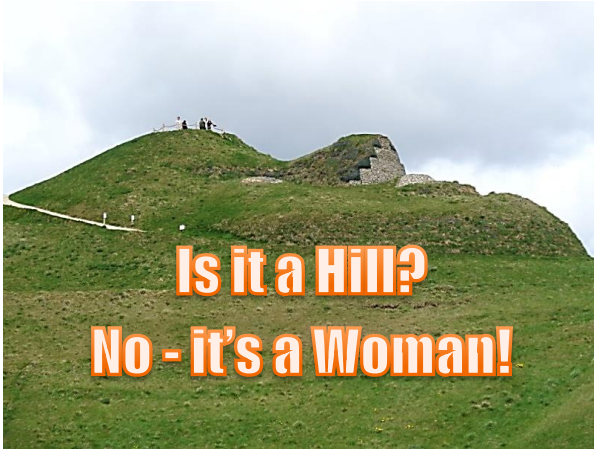
After the RAF George thought it was a good time to propose to Mavis who was and remained the love of his life. Only Mavis had other ideas and made him ask her 3 times for her hand in marriage as she had to be sure, and on the third time of asking Mavis said yes as she thought he would not ask her again. George and Mavis choose the engagement ring. After leaving the jewellers George looked for a romantic place in which to place the ring on Mavis finger- this was a public phone box in a beautiful setting near the Town Hall's Ladies toilets.

They were married on 4th July 1953 at St Edmunds Church aged 22 and had 65 wonderful years together. They went on to have two daughters Helen and Gail. George loved family life and they went on many happy holidays including a trips to Canada, a place George would have emigrated to given the chance, and Spain, prompting George to go to night school to learn Spanish, and family trips to the East Coast were also enjoyed.

George was parent who engaged with his children, he was keen to help Helen and Gail wherever he could during their time at school, he even went back to school himself to learn the new maths in order to help them. He became a school Governor and Chairman of the PTA. By this time George was working at Mansfield Brewery in the wages office, later to be promoted to the Wages and Salaries Supervisor. He loved his time at the Brewery and soon become a popular figure with all his work colleagues (After all he paid their wages). George organised social evenings, wine evenings and helped to organise Barn dances, darts and dominoes events and occasionally helped with Brewery tours that were very popular for the free beer and cheese afterwards.

At the age of 63 after over 30yrs service, George retired from the Brewery but kept busy pursuing his hobbies and leading a very active life. He became Secretary for the pensioners group and organised trips out and social evenings and was a member of the Brewery walking group where he led and planned some of the walks. He and Mavis loved these walks and always looked forward to the time away around Easter with this great bunch of people. George made many friends during his time with the Brewery, evident from the number of you here today, some of you very special to him, and him to you. He had plenty of hobbies included playing bowls, making wine (his favourite was Parsnip) he was a member of the wine group and he would forage for berries to make his wine too. He was a member of the local U3A. He had an eclectic music collection. He loved his garden and greenhouse, taking pleasure in growing both food and flowers. George loved baking, especially his scones, I understand that he also made great rhubarb pies, apple pies and date and walnut cakes! And he cleaned everything up when he'd finished. Mavis said she missed him washing and doing the pots.

While George had a busy and purposeful life, it was nothing without his family. He loved his family. His wife Mavis, daughters Helen & Gail, his son-in-law's Andy and Paul and his beloved Grandchildren Christopher, Katy, Alex and Daniel. It is said they not only stole not only his heart but spent most of his money! George was a highly respected man, and who many people called a thoroughly nice gentleman. This is echoed in the letter from Ron Kirk...*'I had the privilege of working with your husband when I worked for Mansfield Brewery from 1983 to 1991. He was a great stalwart of a great company and represented to the rest of us the unique values we worked for. You are right to feel proud of him, not just as an exceptional employee but more importantly as a thoroughly nice gentleman.*



Barbara Brown and friends enjoyed the Spring Break in Seaburn, Sunderland, where they were able to visit a remarkable piece of breathtaking landscape sculpture.

BARBARA REPORTS:

Whilst in Sunderland, Jenny Hall, Jenny Long, Alan and myself re-visited the site of "The Lady of the North" or to give her proper title 'Northumberlandia' in Cramlington, which is a little higher up than Newcastle.

We first went in 2010 whilst it was still under construction, so it was good to see the finished product. She is a landform sculpture of a reclining lady, 112 feet high and a quarter of a mile long. Created from 1.5 million tons of rock, soil and clay spoil from the opencast Shotton Surface Mine next door. Meant to be a lasting legacy to the community to enjoy as it develops over the years, it is set in a 47 acre park and the site is free to access.

The views from the top of her head are amazing and it is well worth a visit if you are ever in the area.



Perhaps the only way to appreciate this remarkable art project is from above, so if you've got access to a drone camera, here's the view!



The Late Bert Dopson completes his memoir: Part 2



Until now I had spent nine years in an old Victorian religious orphanage, and lived for six wonderful years on a gentleman's thousand acre farm in Norfolk. For the last three years I had been in a very bad slum area in Willesden in north London. Now at seventeen I was a voluntary soldier in an infantry battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire regiment. Hitler was building and replenishing his army in the French ports for his threatened Sea Lion invasion of England. Twenty miles of the English Channel was all that separated and saved us. With only a few weeks' harsh, brutal training and long days and nights of strict discipline we were in action.

Our NCOs were pre-war regular army soldiers and all had been at the Dunkirk evacuation. They were men and we were unruly, ignorant, illiterate and ill mannered, boys. There were clever devils, creeps, glamour boys, braggers, know-alls, idle swines, mummies' little darlings and comedians with no respect for anyone. The well trained NCOs used rough, tough discipline to train and make professional soldiers of this group. Punishments were given out with no mercy to those who did not obey every order pronto. This training went on for three months; jankers, confined to billets, spud bashing and unbearable field punishment. To control such a shower was beyond me and I think the NCOs deserved a medal.

There were also lads from better areas and better homes. They were more educated and most were learning various trades like carpentry, car mechanics, and plumbing. They passed some of their knowledge on to us which was very handy at our young age. Our brains were alert and we absorbed things quickly.

We were now all being taught the same skills - how to defend ourselves and others in a dozen different ways. Empty buildings such as chapels, schools, shops and houses were being commandeered by the government to be our billets. We were issued with what army uniforms the army had, which was very few and our rifles were "broomsticks", giving us the nickname Colonel Bogie's Broomstick Army.

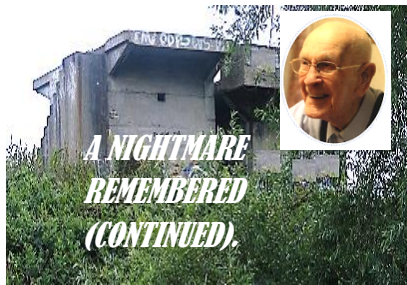
Most wartime battalions were increased to approximately 1000 men; there must have been dozens of battalions like ours all over Britain. The bombing of British towns and cities was now in progress and there were thousands of casualties.

I gave a huge sigh of relief when I left the horrors of the London blitz, but after three months' training the battalion was moved to the east coast and I soon found myself doing the same things - digging out and rescuing people as I had been doing in London. It was automatic that the army was always on the scene when a raid started.

After the nightmare of bombing and rescuing we were transferred to protect the aerodromes along the east coast. We were to be the ground defence, against any air invasion by the new parachutists Hitler had used against other countries he had overrun. Dozens of defensive pillboxes were being built all around these aerodromes. They were armed with Lewis machine guns and Bren guns and were manned by our regiment. The Royal Air Force Regiment who would do this type of work had not yet been formed.

The bombers flying from these aerodromes were attacking the French ports along the channel coast 24 hours day and night. This caused problems for Hitler and he gave special orders for these aerodromes to be put out of action pronto. For the next two years 3 or 4 air attacks a day were common and with our help dozens of enemy planes were brought down. We and the Air Force lost a lot of lads. We were relieved approximately every two months for a rest period but it was no safer in the local towns so we were put on other aerodromes which were getting the same treatment. In 1942-43 Hitler gave up operation Sea Lion to concentrate on attacking Russia. America had joined the war which pleased Churchill. The RAF regiment had been formed and we were relieved from aerodrome duty.

I know what they are doing and how they trained and what they are thinking, saying and feeling. The quietness when mates are lost, that lump in the throat, the put-on laughter, the moments prior to action and the humour which is so important to the companionship.



We had joined up in 1940 as ignorant boys and we were treated no differently to grown men. We did everything a soldier was expected to do and we passed every test in the book. We made our own humour and pleasure where and whenever we could. Men don't cry in adversity – they get a bloody big lump in their throat and then laugh it off. Names like “boy bastards”, “boy soldiers”, “Borstal boys” and “Cockney sods” followed us everywhere but as the war went on, everywhere we went, whenever hardship and trouble was around everyone knew we gave 100% when rescuing, helping, comforting and fighting. Those two years when England stood alone turned thousands of boys into men. With worse to come, and sometimes feeling like zombies, we came through it all, and even after 70 years that lump in the throat still rears its ugly head.

I think of the boys in Afghanistan, the camaraderie, the bravery and the heroism -the deaths, the destruction and the madness of it all.

I know what they are doing and how they trained and what they are thinking, saying and feeling. The quietness when mates are lost, that lump in the throat, the put-on laughter, the moments prior to action and the humour which is so important to the companionship.



HULL'S ROCKERS OUSTED BY BEER!

This old clipping from a 1990s *Marksman* shows how Hull's (now closed) Spring Bank Tavern expanded westwards to incorporate a corner site which once meant a lot to the City of Culture. Your editor recalls the days when this was Pat Cornell's Music Shop. It was the gathering place in the 60s for all the rock bands. I played in some of them, and when I needed a new guitar and couldn't get it on HP, Pat Cornell was willing to offer one with a deposit and monthly payments, a kind of 'Gentleman's agreement'. Sadly, I went back to sea and when I returned years later Cornell's shop had closed, and I still owe Pat £18. I'd be happy to settle up if I knew where to send it! For a guitarist, Cornell's was the place to be on Saturday afternoons. Happy days indeed.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

HULL CAMRA think the Spring Bank Tavern is one of the best pubs in Hull.

They reckon it's an asset to the town and fills a big gap in the market.

And they hope there will be more of the same locally.

Friendly

Secretary Tim Bolton said: "It's got a great atmosphere, a friendly landlord and a super range of beers - who could ask for anything more!"

The brewery invested £200,000 in taking the Spring Bank back in time.

And landlord Peter Spencer

reckons that: "Since we re-opened last August, it's all just been one huge success story!"

Director of retail (North) Alan Gardner said: "The Spring Bank Tavern's success has exceeded all our expectations. After six months our drinks sales are 90 per cent over target. Our Riding beers are taking around 22 per cent of all draught sales and guest beers are only playing a supporting role."

The pub has become a regular venue for local students and is also popular with civil servants working locally. "We are attracting the discerning local drinker," said Alan.

Mansfield's Mighty Empire



A heart-warming sight for Hull sailors; the old Anchor Brewery logo on the crossing bridge at Hull Brewery, Silvester Street, Hull.

Below, Hull Brewery's Silvester Street site today, a gentrified commercial quarter known as The Maltings.

Many readers of *New Marksman* will have happy memories of the time when Mansfield Brewery was at its productive zenith. Although he's lived in Mansfield for 31 years, your new editor was born and bred in Hull, and as a beer aficionado, the cultural and historical connection between Mansfield and Hull's Breweries provides another set of memories 85 miles away from Littleworth. When MBC bought out the Hull business it was known as North Country Breweries Ltd, the name given to it by Northern Dairies Ltd who acquired it in 1971 with 212 tied houses.



Your editor recalls: 'I remember Hull Brewery for many reasons. I joined the Merchant Navy in 1959 and all the vessels which sailed from Hull were fully stocked with Hull beers, especially Amber Export. Between ships in 1963 I worked ashore for a few months at a printers called Brombys on Bond Street opposite Hull Brewery's Silvester Street site. Every morning the print shop was filled with the smell of the mash, and the famous rugby league player, David Doyle-Davison, was employed by the Brewery and bought stationery from us. Hull was the UK's third largest port and with a major fishing fleet, plus the Merchant Navy at its height, this made for a huge demand for good beer. Hull Brewery dates back to 1765 when it was founded as John Ward's Brewery, Dagger Lane. It moved to the Anchor Brewery 1868, and was registered in January 1888 as the Hull Brewery Co Ltd. It seems odd to think that a firm specialising in milk would set its sights on beer, but in 1974 Northern Dairies acquired Hull Brewery and for some reason the name changed to North Country Breweries Ltd. In May 1985 this was in turn bought out by the Mansfield Brewery Co Ltd and brewing in Hull ceased. The cost was £42m roughly equivalent to £114,760,000 today. I recall the disappointment among Hull drinkers when we lost our local brew, but we soon began enjoying Mansfield's authentic version...'