

OLD SIXTEENERS 1915-1919

Fugate Amicitia Umbras

CHRISTMAS 1969 NEWS-SHEET

1. Christmas Greetings. All greet all for Christmas, 1969 - the year when men first landed on the moon. How we came to hate moonlight "with Jerry overhead". See A Train Errant, p.236. Reciprocal good wishes too for 1970.
2. Great F.A.U. Reunion. 25th October, 1969. Over 500 F.A.U. and kindred veterans of two world wars filled Friends' House, London. For some it was a double anniversary, e.g. Wu (alas, not there), A.T.16 and China Convoy; Paul Cadbury, A.T.17 and F.A.U. Chairman. Warmest thanks to Michael Rowntree (Chairman) and Ronald Joynes (Registrar) and others for arranging it; and to Paul Cadbury for reminding us in his short address of the continuing need of opportunities for young people's idealism to express itself in service to their fellows.
3. Next F.A.U. Reunion. 10 years? 5 years? If you want to be "in" on it, you had better note Ronald Joynes's address - 17 Bedford Row, London, W.C.1. - and keep him up-to-date with yours.
4. A.T.16 Reunion on 25th October 1969. We shared the small meeting house with all the other 1914-18-ers. For us it was the 50th anniversary year of handing over good old G.W.R. A.T.16 on Wednesday, 29th January 1919, to the crew of A.T.22 at Audruicq. We had carried 157,562 patients and had travelled 77,551 miles.
5. Rowley's Reunion Statistics. There were 22 of us Old Sixteeners present, and we were one-third of the 1914-18 War contingent present. Of the 22, 16* were at the Westhill Reunion in 1965; and it seemed, as we renewed acquaintance, that the four years' gap had been only four months! Six (Jumbo Bayliss, Clemeo, Peter Garwood, Percy Holman, Dickie Redfern and Tip) had not been seen by most of us for 50 years and it was a happy meeting.
The large gathering made it impossible for Sixteeners to have a private meeting, but we were able to gather in numerous small groups, constantly changing, and chatter was unceasing. We all felt the journey to London had been well worth while.
* The 16 were: Rosie Bower, Brookie, Edgar Ellis, Harrijohn, Johnner, Jimmy Moore, Rowley Moore, Noel Priestman, Caddis Pumphrey, Simpy, Cooky Steele, Hughie Sutherland, Treggie, Bob Waites, Jack White and Ben Gunn (Pope-Russell).
6. In Memoriam. Herbert B. Lupton died on 23rd February 1969. Luppy was on A.T.16 from 27.2.1916 to 5.3.1918.
7. Clemeo. The event of the year was undoubtedly Johnner's discovery of A.W.Clemes, living at Lindisfarne, Ashley Box, Chippenham, Wilts. He puts in about 12 hours a week at business and about 20 hours in the garden. Clemeo left A.T.16 for A.T.11 on 28.1.1916. Like most of the others present at the Reunion, still easy to recognise; if you remember Alan Chandler's coloured cartoon: Alfred's first pipe.
Percy Holman, too, reminded us of Chandler's stained glass window portrait and the N.V.S. (A Train Errant, pp.88-9). Has retired from Parliament, but retains voluntary links with his Bethnal Green constituency and continues business chairmanships.

Continued.....

8. Gleanings from some of those present. Dickie Redfern - Very fit at 81, with 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land to till, and felling a 60 ft. willow. Remembers saluting Gen. French! Cockie Steele - Recently met Tip and Winifred, and was amazed at her fortitude under great suffering. Hughie Sutherland - Retired family doctor. About to move to Sutherland. Brookie - Main occupations: living down the past, regarding the future with apprehension, youth service, etc., wondering what to make for dinner. Jumbo Bayliss - "We cultivate our garden and try to help the occasional lame dog over stiles". Tip - "Fugat Amicitia Umbras: how true, just when Winifred and I were at our lowest". Peter Garwood - 80 this month (December) and active in church work. Noel Priestman - Could fill a book with reminiscences, 5 children, 10 grandchildren. Treggie - Visited India in 1968, and Turkey in 1969. Ben Gunn - Driving through France and reminiscing. Produced bathing snapshot at St. Malo. With Jimmie Moore, tried hard to organise a Midlanders' reunion.
9. Greetings and News from Absentees. Howard L. Carey and Earl O. Fowler sent greetings from U.S.A. to the Reunion - too far to travel! Would love to see anyone able to visit them. Curley Stanley - "I should love to be with you to be able to feel the full warmth of comradeship that glowed among us during the war years. Unfortunately, I have a 'heart'...Fugat Amicitia Umbras is as true to me now as it was during 1915-1919". T.F. Fox... "Have much enjoyed hearing about Old Sixteeners, and think the interest shown has proved how good a thing it was to revive the memories". Later: "I got a real shock of pleasure from your card with the signatures" - from the Reunion. Ivan Holmes (Shorty), R.E. Whitby (Whiskey), Frank Bracey, Giles Howson (young Howjohn), H.S. Hoyles (Hoylio), Farley Rutter were all prevented by distance, or engagements, or illness or other responsibilities. Leonard Tomkinson (Wu) is in a pleasant old people's hospital suffering from loss of memory, and is occasionally visited by Curley and Jack White and Harrijohn.
10. Edmund Cooper. Fenimore wrote to Rowley: "We had Brookie staying with us... coincided with the Muker show, where he exhibited some of his oil-paintings. He won a prize." (Dark horse, Brookie!) "The Dalesman", April 1969, had a good photo of Fenimore with a potted biography recounting his service on the Yorkshire Dales National Parks Committee. Harrijohn is this year's President of The Ramblers' Association (Midland Area).
11. Messages from Widows: Mary Devereux: "Thank you very much for greetings from Old Sixteeners...It was a great pleasure to be remembered...Am sure if Tatcho had been alive, he would have been among you. Eva Lupton: "The thought that my dear Luppy is still remembered gives me a nice comforted feeling." Netta Young: "It's nice to be remembered. Fugat Amicitia Umbras". Phyllis Harvey: "It was indeed kind...to let me have the notice...and then the card with all the signatures...How John would have loved it". Katharine Major: "Delighted to have the joint card of remembrance ...and to think that you still think of me for John's sake. I can so well remember the tales he used to tell every now and again, or to look up the book".
12. Envoi. "When we come to look back upon our train life we shall probably regard these years as some of the best we have spent" - H.R.Gill, p.301.

30 Weoley Hill,
Birmingham 29.
Tel. (021) 472 2417.

With affectionate regards to each one of you.
Harrijohn
(Cyril A. Harrison)

OLD SIXTEENERS 1915 - 1919

CHRISTMAS 1976 NEWS-SHEET

DECEMBER 1976

also sent to the following:-

Mrs. Hilda Harrison 30 Weoley Hill, Birmingham 29

Mrs. Ellen Stanley 9 Claines Road, Northfield, Birmingham 31.

Mrs. Janet Tomkinson 1 Appleton Close, Bournville, Birmingham 30.

Mrs. Winifred White 171 Heath Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham 30.

Mrs. K. Major "Sewell House", Belmont Road, Winscombe, Somerset.

Mrs. H.R. Gill Devoncourt Hotel, Exmouth, South Devon.

Miss Margaret Johnson "Glaeburn", Westbury Terrace, Westerham, Kent.

Mrs. E. Lupton 120 Whitchurch Road, Harlescott, Shrewsbury, Salop.

Mrs. W.M. Moore "Faircroft", Hayton, Retford, Notts.

Mrs. W. Priestman 4 Firbank House, Barn Close, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

Mrs. Marjorie Abbatt 148 Chatsworth Court, London W8.

Mrs. N. Bower 9 Wainscot Close, Wadsworth, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire.

Mrs. ~~A.M. Jackson~~ "Reedley", ~~Greenhill, Brampton, Cumberland.~~ *Revised*

Brian Livesay (Unit Records) "Friends House", Euston Road, London N.W.1.

Harry W. Locke 16 Cherry Tree Avenue, New Earswick, York.

Ronald A. Joynes 17 Bedford Row, London W.C.1.

Paul S. Cadbury 32 St.Mary's Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17.

Capt. Meaburn Tatham "Brambles", Arkley, Herts.

Fugat Amicitia Umbras

CHRISTMAS 1976 NEWS-SHEET

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen
Greetings for Christmas and New Year from All to All

To those who have written since the last News-Sheet, many thanks. Replies to my letters have enabled me to write to each one giving news of several. As mobility and personal contact lessens, it is nice to be able to give more detailed news.

H.S. Hoyles (Hoylio) writes that, as we cannot meet, it is nice and refreshing to renew past experiences and have news of Tiplady, Jumbo, Simpy, Whiskey, etc. - and all good and true fellows. At 84 he now only drives during daylight - short journeys to Church on Sundays and shopping with his wife. As a Founder Member of both Rotary and Probus Clubs he attends regularly and Masonic work fills up his time. He does mention difficulty in pruning high fruit trees and his letter ends "With all kind regards for a Happy Christmas".

Scott-Bayliss (Jumbo) replies with good news of the success of his eye operation. It was nice to see the envelope and contents in his usual handwriting. Mentions that he has been fortunate in almost completely avoiding hospitals but mentions a spell in one near Etaples during 1918, fortunately not long, because of the stench from a dead whale nearby. Also nearby a statue of Julius Caesar commemorating his embarkation there for Britain in B.C.55. Whether or not his recovery was expedited by the odour from the whale, he does not mention.

A.H. Simpson (Simpy): Pleased to have some news of A.T.16 Survivors. At 86 does not get around as much as heretofore, being limited in car driving. Like many of us, cannot keep pace with weeds and gardening. Fortunately, their youngest son lives only six miles away. The fact that he is Mayor of Much Wenlock adds to their feeling of antiquity.

Dr. R.E. Whitby (Whiskey): Glad to receive a letter as he feels more and more isolated these days. Has not felt up to a bus ride to Westbury where Jumbo has been so very good in meeting him. He adds: "Braille goes on perpetually but failing eyesight is a limiting factor - so I have started knitting Shetland Shawls!!! for Oxfam to earn an honest penny. Actually made £50 last year - but the cost of wool is exorbitant". One must do something at 85. He concludes: "Hail to all Sixteeners to whom I owe so much".

Farley Rutter: Good that we Old Sixteeners who are left are still in touch with each other. Mentions Armistice Day, 11th November 1918. After Bethune we arrived at Wimereux to discharge a load of patients. On arrival we found many of the stretcher-bearers incapable, having celebrated with too much alcohol. He remembers being on duty when A.T.16 went up to Pontarlier and his discussions with the R.T.O. as to our descent. He mentions, too, the Summer of 1919 - a family party at Sandbanks, Poole - guests of Gill and Hoyles - and how they all enjoyed it. "My good wishes to all Old Sixteeners".

Jim Moore: Still going strong on bowls and driving - the latter perhaps a little more limited. He is, however, able to see Rowley's widow, Winifred, and family from time to time and says they are a help to each other.

A.L. Tiplady (Tip): As enthusiastic as ever about A.T. Sixteeners, the F.A.U. and Ackworth School. Has had a spell in hospital and has to return there again in the New Year. We hope that all goes well and to have good news of his recovery. Wishes he could visit all Survivors again and mentions part of his route - to King Dick (Simpy), Farley Rutter, Whiskey - back to Jumbo, Elizabeth Pumphrey at Eastbourne, up to Jim Moore at Sheffield, Edgar Ellis at Ossett and Fenimore Cooper. He sends his very kind regards to all Old A.T. Sixteeners and also to Hilda Harrison, Ellen Stanley and Winifred White, remembering their kindness and hospitality.

Edmund Cooper (Fenimore): From Tiplady's recent letters - "Fenimore is still going strong and there are rumours of a book on Yorkshire Folklore". Good news of health and effort and we look forward to reading his very interesting book.

Arthur Steele (Cockie): Letter from him and his wife. They will let me have news of Tip when he goes into hospital. How nice to hear they have a grandson aged 3 months - what happiness and interest for them. Cockie and his wife visited Tip in the Summer and had an unforgettably happy time.

When Dickie Redfern died 12th November 1975, Leonard E. Benson, with whom he served on S.S.A.13, sent me some of his papers. Amongst them was a post card size photo of several recruits (? F.A.U.), some in uniform, some in civvies. Tiplady and Cockie Steele now have it to enlarge. They say it is taken in 1915 at Oxhey Grange and of some Originals. Has anyone any information, please?

Winifred Priestman: Expresses thanks for the News-letter which Noel was always keen to receive. He attended reunions whenever possible and always enjoyed telling anecdotes and sharing his memories. Her letter is written on the back of a print of the Main Staircase, West Wing, Ackworth School. Change of address noted.

The American Survivors: As they are all Originals of A.T.16 it would be nice to have news of them. There are still some Originals here who remember and mention them and who would be particularly interested - so please!

In addition to the list of all known Survivors of A.T.16, enclosed is also a list of others to whom Harrijohn sent the Christmas News-Sheet. As some have met, it may revive happy memories.

By service and contact, all have contributed to this Christmas News-Sheet. To me, with the least of both, has come the privilege to keep those with whom I served and others in touch. As mentioned before, Harrijohn asked me to take over so he hoped the contact would be carried on. That being his wish, it would indeed have been a pity for it to cease after his and Rowley Moore's many years of devotion to our interest.

Omissions and errors are regretted and notification of them will be welcome. Also any news or messages. Again very many thanks to all who have written or contacted through others.

Fugat Amicitia Umbras

"Glencairn",
11 Norton View,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham, 14.

Ben Gunn
(A. Pope Russell)
December 1976.