



# INDEFATIGABLE

OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION



2018 NEWSLETTER





## INDEFATIGABLE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 2017

Greetings on behalf of the IOBA  
Andrew, Steve, Tom, Richard, Ian & Tony

Again, thanks must go to our very own Buzz Lightyear, **Owen Sutton** for singlehandedly saving the Newsletter cover from oblivion ... and beyond!!

OWENSUTTON.com    Graphic & Web Design



**2018** Many of you will recall during your time at TS Indefatigable, writing letters to home and loved ones far away in the hope that you would get something in return and perhaps a little extra pocket money thrown in for good measure. Writing a letter back then meant just that, the use of a pen and a piece of paper indeed in 1977/8 the thought of sitting in front of a computer and typing out a message would never have crossed my mind, even considering the use of a typewriter might have been a stretch to far. But here we are

40 years on and somethings in life seem to be a little bit easier thanks to modern technology. The fact that the computer corrects your mistakes and changes when words are spelt incorrectly certainly saves a lot of ink, or has it made us lazy when it comes to understanding how to construct sentences and the use of correct grammar? Undoubtedly the introduction of text messages has changed the way we communicate for ever, we can now use emoticons to express how we feel therefore negating the need to express emotion through the written word, which to be fair many of us struggle with, just ask your wife or partner. On another front, how many of us would even know the Old Boys Association existed if we had not used the Internet search engine to find out such?

As I take a moment to reflect on the past, a glance out of the window at the autumnal leaves on the trees reminds me that as with the seasons, nature, and the environment in which we live, things evolve and we move on. We cannot change the seasons but if the news is anything to go by seasons as we know it may

be a lot different in the next generation thanks to global warming. Sometimes change is not always for the best; who knows what will happen to our economy and the welfare of our great nation post Brexit, I for one absolutely hope that something good can come of it although like many sceptics I await to be convinced that this change is for the better.

That is going to be my last reference to any political topic as we must all consider our future and only occasionally seek to linger in or learn from our past and who knows we might all be earning more money and have a better quality of life in the end? History has taught us that as we evolve scientifically we continue to push the boundaries of just what is humanly possible. Who would have thought that a handheld device would have been able to provide such a communicational link to the outside world and take stunning photographs that can be transferred to another device anywhere in the world instantly. Images of “Del Boy” with the brick to his ear remind me once again of how far we have come in a short period of time. Does anyone still recall taking their holiday snaps roll of film to boots for development or to be made into projector slides? Certainly when I was at school collecting LP records and the occasional single on vinyl was also the norm, great to see that this media is beginning to return albeit with more and more things being available to download via a computer or phone it is no surprise to see the demise of the slightly more modern, but now antiquated CD Player – even from a modern PC.

Having spent the last 14 years associated with the automotive industry, this is again another area that is seeing huge change. Entrepreneurs are now seriously considering the future of daily travel, perhaps not in my lifetime but soon enough the UK motorway network will not be on tarmac but will be in the sky as we use electric vehicles to commute across towns nearer to the clouds that we now store our data on!

As we come to the end of another fascinating and most rewarding year for the IOBA, I once again want to thank all the committee for their hard work and dedication to our association. The work of the team behind the scenes to ensure old boys of the school can have a connection with their past and a link to our history is testimony to everything we stand for. We also seek the use of technology to store our records and creative thought when reaching out to find new ideas and items for sale in our shop. I must offer a great big thank you to Capt. Joe Earl for providing us with the inspiration and story behind the new Indefatigable coins that we have had commissioned. If you have not yet purchased one of these, I recommend you visit the website and find the links to the shop where they can be purchased as a historical keepsake to pass down through the generations. I am also wanting to reach out and thank our fantastic shop keepers for their tireless work in creating new and exciting handcrafted items of such quality and for the use of their web-site to promote and distribute our products to old boys and their families all over the world.

Once again in June 2018, we were able to come together as an association and celebrate as good friends do at our annual reunion dinner in Llanfair PG. At this reunion we welcomed the new JSMTTC Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Andy Husband as our guest on the evening and again I wish to portray my thanks to the JSMTTC Staff for making us so welcome during the reunion weekend. Along with the team at the Carreg Bran hotel, who once again made us feel comfortable and treated us to a splendid meal on the Saturday Night. I know that some of you have expressed a concern about the price of your beer at the hotel and I will see if we can negotiate something for old boys along the lines of a happy hour, we can only try. A wonderful weekend was had by all and again we dug deep into our pockets to raise a significant sum of money for our association and charitable causes. My thanks to you all for making the journey and for recalling the memories.

In June 2018 It was once again my honour and privilege to represent the association in awarding The Indefatigable Cup to the most improved Sea Cadet Unit, TS Intrepid in Cheshunt. I hope that you have had the opportunity to read the report see the images from the evening loaded onto our webpage regarding the event. Some of the facial expressions of the youngsters and even those of the instructors reminds me of what a great cause this is. I truly believe that our contribution inspires the hope of so many youngsters who take great pride in carrying on the tradition whilst the leadership teams provide a source of learning in a secure and safe environment, just what opportunities await these potential servicemen and women of the future?

September 2018 saw the IOBA once again take part in the Merchant Navy memorial day and pay a fitting tribute to those who have served the nation at its time of need, I need not remind you that 2018 is a significant anniversary and marks a historic milestone in our Nation's history and we must give thanks to those who gave so much then for the freedoms we enjoy today. My first experience of the event, what a great day out it was, another set of memories that will live with me forever especially the work of our Standard Bearers who fill you with pride at their professionalism and display of dignity and respect during these moments of reflection.

I hope to see as many of you as possible for our gathering again in June 2019 so please put this date in your diaries **8<sup>th</sup> June 2019** I will share with you at a later date the next chapter in the AIB Life story, but for now may I wish you all a great and prosperous New Year  
Gobless

Andrew I. Butler

# RECALLING PADDY MILLER 48/50



During the year, back in April 2014, I received a letter from Charles (Paddy) Miller, he was at the Indefatigable Sea Training School for boys during the 1948 – 50 era, he informed me his son had seen the Indefatigable OBA Website

having done a quick Google search. Paddy, as he has always been known as, was the youngest boy at the school, also he notes he was the only Irish boy!! He recalls it was a strict regime and food was short “*We were always hungry*”, however he recounts they were very happy days and he loved it, the Chief Officer at the time was Captain Banberra, and the Bandmaster was Mr Armstrong, Paddy was the Chief Bugler in the band.

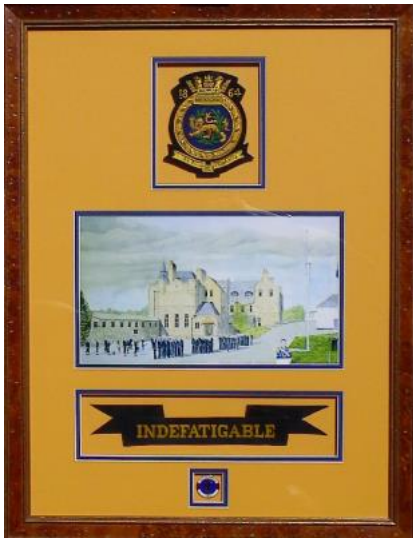
Paddy would love to hear from anyone at the Inde during 1948 to 1950, and also of any news relating to the Inde during those days. Now in his 80's, he left his native home in County Cork, Ireland, when he was just 15 years of age, Paddy has forwarded to me a mass of his Merchant seaman documentation, two items we have had professionally framed, and they will reside in the hallway at the school with the other Indefatigable memorabilia.

During 1950 it was Paddy's turn to disembark the good ship Indefatigable, and he was sent to the Liverpool Sailors Home to await his first ship, this was to be the 'Empress of Scotland, he enjoyed his time on the vessel, he then went on to work for Harrison Line, Palm boats and the Blue Funnel Line.

Any members out there who want to contact Paddy, contact the IOBA and we will send you his address details.

# STAYING ON THE ISLAND

by Tom Keyes



Those sober enough to recall anything about this year's reunion meal may remember this collage being auctioned and the winning bid being made by Rocky Somerville. What you may not know is that Rocky (*probably still drunk from the night before!!* – Editor) has donated the item on indefinite loan to the Gazelle Hotel, Menai Bridge. The framed collage is on display in the bar for all to enjoy and, in the words of Rocky “so that any visitors will be reminded of us and hopefully some more old boys

*will hear about us decide to join us”.*

Meanwhile, while most of us were enduring Andrew droning on and on at the AGM, one of our regular attendees was enjoying a G&T in Business Class on his way to sunnier climes ... well Dublin anyway! Ash Price was jetting off to join another survey ship in his quest to find treasure at the bottom of the oceans. Ever thoughtful, Ash stole a moment during his pampered flight to give us all a wave as he passed abeam of Great Orms Head, with the Menai Straits and the Inde in the distance.







## **The Liverpool Lifeboat Disaster of 1892 by Jim Sullivan**

This book is two stories within one book. One story is about a lifeboat disaster. The disaster in question occurred 127 years ago but it is told by the author in such a way as to make you care for the people involved as though it had happened only yesterday. There's the unbelievable bravery of the lifeboat crews. There's the terrible loss of three lifeboatmen. There's the one-legged lifeboatman known as 'Leggy' who saved himself and his wooden leg. There's the incredible generosity of donations for the victims' families ... the list goes on.

The second story woven into the narrative is about the authors' research after recalling stories he had heard as a child from members of his seafaring family. With no record in the RNLI archives Jim painstakingly searched the local archives until he hit pay dirt. His great grandfather was one of three lifeboatmen who died while attempting to save the lives of those on board the sailing ship Maxwell, following a storm in the Mersey Estuary. He tracks down their unmarked grave and becomes its legal owner.

The book describes in some detail the day of the funeral and this is where it gets really interesting – the Indefatigable Band lead the cortege to the church, and then on to the cemetery. Newspaper reports of the day describe the scene and detail the music played and sung by the band.

In my opinion the story would be deserving of a play/film such is the scope of the tale. A thoroughly good read and a triumph for its author!

For those interested, the band played/sang *'The dead march'* in Saul by Handel and *'Days and moments quickly flying'* by E.Caswall.

# TO THE MOTLEY CREW

by Christo McCumesky

I wake this morning once again  
and think back to that early train  
From Bangor station, back in the day.  
My youth I'm in and in the way

To start a life that I had seen  
a life that I'd had in a dream  
Out on the open water  
Had I ever thought about son or daughter

But before I left this place  
I wish I'd had more grace  
To throw a penny or ha'penny just the same  
At the man who gave his life

To balance all the books  
And keep all us young pups  
In food and clothing, Money sucks!  
Back to those turgid days  
Number 32, I spent two May's

With lads, who just like me  
Were heading for the sea  
Two years spending time  
To learn to spend a life sublime

(To live a life as men)  
Drink beer and whisky, also wine  
And have a most marvellous time  
That we all promised us most the time

Well here's a toast to you  
My motley members of that crew  
We're mostly here to tell the tale  
I'd love to see you all again and have that pint of ale

# A FAMILY AFFAIR

by Liz Jordan



Edmund Alderson

Edmund Alderson was born in Dumfries, Scotland in 1849 and went to sea aged just 9 in an American windjammer. At the age of 26 he was granted citizenship of the USA – why remains a bit of a mystery! By 1890 he was a junior officer in the Papayami and Leyland Lines and he qualified as Master (Foreign Going) in 1895. He served for twelve years as chief officer on the “Scotsman”, the largest vessel of the Dominion Line and was Chief Officer of RMS Ban-Sing-Guan 1904-5 where he saw service in the Japanese – Russian war. For 10 years he was Chief Officer of the

Training Ship TS Indefatigable and commanded the brigantine JJ Bibby which was manned entirely by boys of the Indefatigable. During this time, JJ Bibby cruised around the UK and to the near continent, and most notably took part in the 1911 review of the Fleet by George V. Edmund retired in 1921 but not long after he suffered a debilitating stroke and died at home in 1925.

*(as an interesting coincidence, Edmund was the Chief Officer of the SS Vancouver sailing between Liverpool and Quebec when my Gt Gt Grandparents and their five children, all aged under ten, emigrated to Canada ... they returned to England when “the Red Indians stole their food”!! – Editor)*

**Meanwhile** ... my Grandfather, Richard Armstrong was born in Chelsea in 1896 where his parents were in domestic service to the Hambro banking family. Richard’s godmother was Lady Sybil Hambro who was later described as “*the formidable, cigar smoking, head of the secretarial section of MI5*” during the First World War. It is reported that she recommended that he went to sea and she signed as his Surety on his Apprentice’s Indenture with the Training Ship “Indefatigable” on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1908. Richard trained on the Indefatigable and then went to sea on the brigantine JJ Bibby where he trained under Captain Edmund Alderson. On leaving the Inde Richard joined Orient Line and



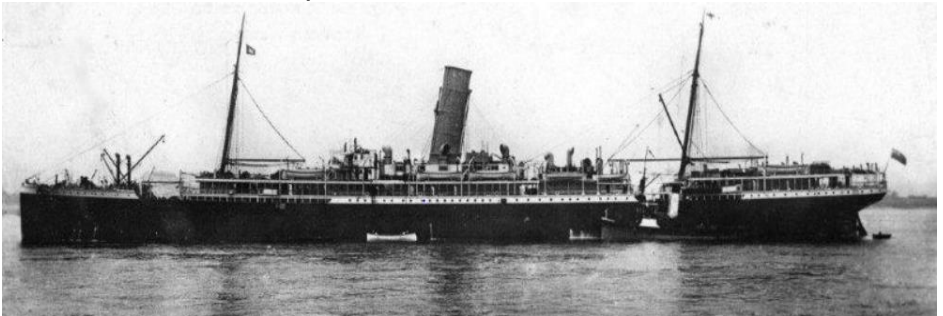
**Richard's first day on  
Indefatigable, aged 12. August 10th  
1908**  
daughter, Alison!

completed a number of voyages to Australia aboard the SS Orantes.

At the outbreak of the First World War he was serving on SS Ophir and he remained there, aged just 18, when she was requisitioned by the Admiralty and converted to an armed merchant cruiser. For this service he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He never lost sight of his origins and often visited Captain Edmund Alderson whenever he was on leave – although I suspect he had an ulterior motive as in 1920 he married Captain Alderson's

Until his three children were born my grandfather remained at sea. He served in the Ninth Cruise Squadron and the Harwich Flotilla where he was recommended for a commission which he declined. He continued to serve on a variety of P&O ships and was eventually promoted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer in 1922. In 1924 he came ashore and took a job with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board as a dock gateman at Canning Dock. He was appointed head gateman in 1942, and piermaster at Alfred Dock in 1954.



**SS Ophir before her conversion**



**Prize Day 1939 on board TS Indefatigable (ex HMS Phaeton) off Rock Ferry. (L-R) Richard, Ted (my Dad) and Rev Pearson. Note the paint scheme for 'King Billy'!!**

During WW2 he had the additional duties of an ARP warden, ensuring that all the dock lights were off. He used to guide ships into the docks, for distances of maybe a mile, using a loud hailer and walking backwards in the dark. In 1942 bomb damage destroyed the house and they moved to Rock Ferry.

He took early retirement in 1960, aged 64, due to failing health. Richard died in Shropshire in 1990 aged 94.

He often talked to me about his time with the Indefatigable as being one of the best of his life and he was still talking about it well into his 90s. He was pleased and proud to attend the Indefatigable commemoration in June 1987. One of his frequent sayings (which was drummed into my father and subsequently into me!) was "Dress and Address": dress appropriately and always address people politely. I believe this dates back to his Indefatigable training days. My grandfather told me lots of stories of his time at sea but one of my favourites is that when the Princess Royal, Princess Mary came

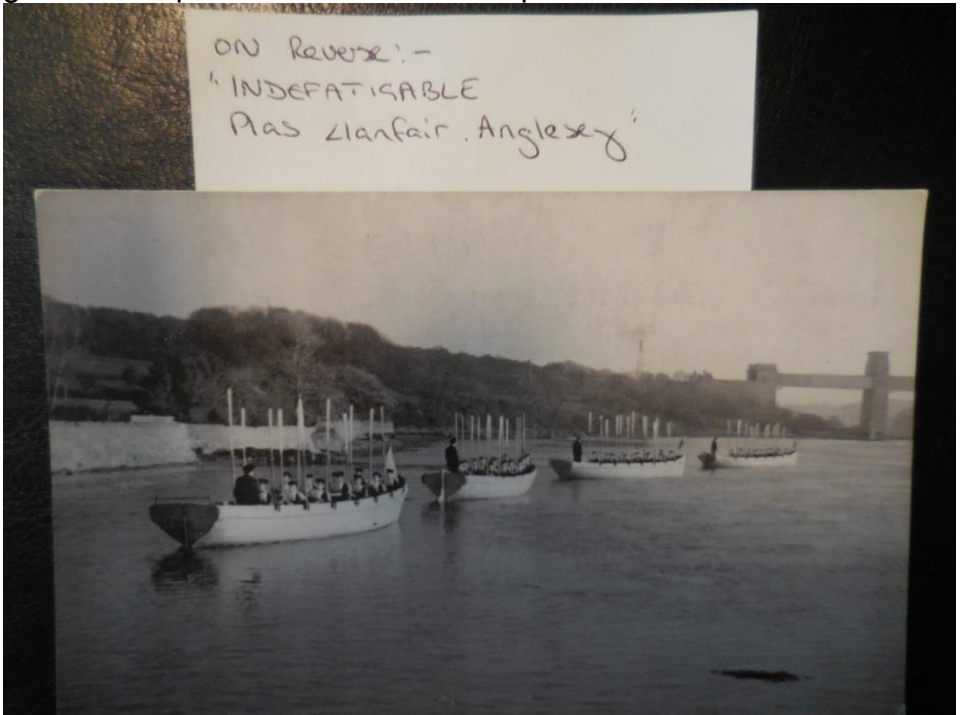


**Richard in 1987 with the ship's figure head behind him, at the commemoration of the Indefatigable – oldest and youngest boy**

on board for a tour, he was in the engine room and she asked him what he was doing. When he said he was “sounding the wells” she asked what that meant...“*I’m feeling her bottom to see if she’s making water*” he replied; something she found highly amusing as an anecdote to recount over dinner that evening! She gave him some cigarettes apparently, in a gold box which he kept unopened.

He also told a story about the family of Captain Scott of Antarctic fame. In 1910, while transporting Scott to New Zealand for his ill-fated journey to the South Pole, Mrs Scott asked my grandfather, as he was the youngest of the crew, to initiate her Pollywog son Peter into the Kingdom of Neptune. Peter grew up to become Sir Peter Scott, the naturalist, founder of the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust ... or as my grandfather put it “he had some bird place in Gloucestershire!”

ON REVERSE:-  
“INDEFATIGABLE  
Plas Llanfair, Anglesey”



# OOPS!!

by Tony Eastham



Belated congratulations are due to our very own bard, Captain Joe Earl MNM on the award of the Merchant Navy Medal. Joe received this award in 2009 but his story inadvertently slipped through our editorial net and we are very pleased to be able

to make amends now.

The Merchant Navy Medal was inaugurated in 2005 by the Merchant Navy Welfare Board for “those seafarers who had made a significant contribution to the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets” and in 2015 Her Majesty The Queen graciously signed the Royal Warrant for the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service. Joe was presented with his award in a ceremony at Trinity House in London by Admiral The Right Honourable Lord West of Spithead GCB DSC ADC DUniv and the citation reads “for services to merchant shipping and to the Bristol Branch of the Merchant Navy Association”.

**‘Bravo Zulu’ Joe!**

# IOBA MERCHANDISING!

by Ian Parr

‘New products and Innovation’ are the watchwords of the IOBA shop managers, Ian and Debby Parr. With electronic payment available at the AGM and the option to order on-line but collect at the AGM giving members the advantage of saving postage costs while guaranteeing availability.

And there are a lot of new products too – take a look inside the front and back covers or visit [www.rolldovestudio.co.uk](http://www.rolldovestudio.co.uk) select ‘Indefatigable’ from top menu then follow the Inde shop link.

# I AM INDE BOY

by John Farley



I wonder if anyone else felt their heart drop at the site they saw when returning to the Inde on their first OBA – the old parade ground marked out as a car park – the scene hit me in a very negative way. I still remember my introduction to that parade ground and of course a big meaty guy who I later learned was Captain

George Washington Irvine; what a great name! I found GWI a bit scary at the time, but he became more fatherly as time went by. I don't know if I can get the sound right, but "Comb yur herr boy" is the best I can do! Those words are burned into my memory. I think it was on the parade ground, aged just 15, where I realised that 'I am an Inde Boy'; a seed that has stayed with me from that age to where I am now in my early seventies.

I have lived in Thailand for a little over a decade. One of the local shops sells cooked chestnuts and proprietor gives me very strange looks when I ask for them uncooked. That little road by the parade ground led me to the chestnut trees that grew there and when they were in season I would encourage them to fall to the ground. I developed a liking for those little delicacies, and even now I enjoy that treat, so I guess that is the first thread that ties me to the Indefatigable.

The next thing of significance was quite different; my first punishment detail! When I joined The Inde I was lucky enough to already have experience with the drum and bugle from my time spent in the Gloucester Sea Cubs and later Sea Scouts and this allowed me to join the Indefatigable Band. One morning after the early morning parade march (I guess we had successfully woken all the locals, I can only imagine what unwelcoming words were directed at our uncaring ears!!) the names of the damned were called out for punishment. I and two others were marched off and led to the depths of the cellars where the boilers were. This was



my first time and I didn't know what to expect but I didn't have long to wait to find out. There were three sets of young cheeks being led into the boiler room that fine morning. All lined up with our little bums turned to the boiler for a warm up. The first boy was led away and after a pause I heard the whack, it was followed by a howl of protest. The second whack had the same result, and so did the third, fourth, fifth and sixth. The next boy was led away; I remember his crimes only warranted three of the best which also had howls of protest. Before I knew it, I was being marched in to face my punishment. Captain George Washington Irvine standing at his lectern, Chief Officer Derrick close by and Mr Muggeridge stood there with the cane, a very serious look on his face. I don't think his cat was there but I am sure it was not far away. I don't remember the charge; it was probably smoking one of those little skinny cigarettes I could get for threepence, having a puff behind the swimming pool was a little treat for me and many others. The charges were read out and the sentence pronounced by the Captain, "Do you accept the punishment boy", he asked as if I had a choice to make. One thing was for sure, I would take what was coming without a sound. The six were delivered and the sight I saw when I



managed to stand up has remained with me to this day; it was respect! The look on the faces of those guys was something I treasured. Chief Derrick was a decent man, kindly and fair. It was his face my tear filled eyes locked on to after the caning. That experience is the second thread that ties me still to The Indefatigable School for Boys.

This Photo is very special. I had been trusted with getting the mail. It is a nice little snap and I know it has been used and shown from time to time. But what you don't know is that the look on my face is pleading and

praying that Chief Derrick does not ask me for a look in the bag. I had been for the mail and had been to the shop too. The bag was half full of fags, tobacco and papers and had I been exposed, it would have killed any trust I had earned!

How I ended up going to the Inde is another interesting chapter – my dad was a soldier and we lived in barracks but my school life dominated. I don't claim to have been a little angel because the Secondary System of Education in Britain at the time was not the place for little angels and many pranks were started amid the gangs that grew out of the workers housing estates and basically I was allowed to get away with much in gang life. I was under the impression that my parents amusements were more important than what I was getting up to. True or not, I don't know, but subconsciously I reacted to whatever I believed at that time. It all came to a head when my father wanted to put me in another school. I rebelled by never actually attending the school, but instead hid out daily in the old double decker bus used as a sports locker. Later while waiting for my sister to come out of school I hid in a hen house. The flea bites gave me away and the gig was up. I was soon presented with the little "Inde" booklet that I knew later as "The Blue Liar". I remember my Father giving it to me. "Have a look at that he said" I had a bit of a look and laid it down, I was more interested in what was on the TV. He came back into the room and I heard him say. "Well what do you think of that"? I barely remember what I said, probably something like "I don't think much of it at all" and while raising his voice he said "Well you had better think again boy because you're not staying here". Anyway it was not long after that and a long silent drive that the "Indefatigable" came into view, and my life for the next couple of years was to shape me into who I am today.

Like many Inde lads, it wasn't the curriculum lessons that shaped me but other things that sculpted my character. It must have been winter, wet and stormy, some boy had noticed the condition of the boats being buffeted down in the Manai Straits. A small crowd of us boys made our way down to the pebbled beach. It was raining lightly and the wind blew. The boats seemed to be dragging their anchors. For the life of me I will never understand

why I did what I did. For some reason it seemed important to my tiny mind that I needed to be on board one of those boats. I remember stripping off down to my undies and made my way into the stormy water. I don't remember having to swim but I seemed to be driven as though my very life depended on it. I don't remember hearing any protest from any of the other boys that were there. Eventually I climbed aboard the cutter and sat there shivering. What now??? I looked back at the cobbled beach; there was no one to be seen. Not a soul, I was totally alone. I had no choice but to make my way back to shore. I looked around for my clothing, it too was gone. I was making my way along the sea wall and saw a white front, it was mine okay but where was the rest of my gear? I made my way up to the school and was met by the duty officer. "Go and get your breakfast boy" and as I protested about my state of undress he added, "Go as you are". I can still feel the embarrassment of having to enter the dining hall, skinny little prick that I was, all wet and bedraggled facing my peers. Nobody made fun of me; the whole episode was as though it was meant to be. These lessons of humility, pride, self-worth and most importantly camaraderie are what shaped me. Something I had never felt before, a lesson that was to become very important later in shipboard life at sea and in later life too. Sending me to the Inde was the best thing my father could ever have done for me.

My parents only visited me once while I was on Anglesey. I think our father and son thing was doomed; I seemed to get on okay out of his sight but whenever we met or whenever I wanted to impress him, it always ended badly.



**Mum and me at Menai Bridge**

It must have been some important occasion that had caused us to all to be down on the football field. I remember we had practiced marching getting ready for something. I was a bit pensive because parents were also going to be there, I knew Mum would be okay, but my need to impress my father wore heavy on me. Orders for the parade were to be made on the drum and as lead drummer that would be down to me. I think I was as proud as I had ever been at the chance to finally show my dad what I had become. I remember it being a fine day as we were marched down to the grassy fields. I remember too standing there with all the ships company behind and beside me. People were arriving and taking their seats. I had even picked out my mum and dad as they found places to observe the parade. We waited, and waited, and waited. We were told the town dignitaries were still on their way. I had memorized all the drumming orders and couldn't wait to impress for the first time. Then all of a sudden, I took three steps forward and fell flat on my face. We had waited just a little too long. The next thing I remember was lying on my back in the bushes beside the field looking up past my mum to the back of the guy I wanted to impress. Some years ago I was moved to write my life's story and this little poem is from that writing.

I can remember clearly,  
My father saying to me  
"I'll give you a proposition,  
There's something I want you to see".

I want you to read this little blue book  
And a series of pictures I want you to look.  
I'm going to wash the things in the sink,  
You read the book, and then have a think."

I did as he asked, I read the book  
And at all of the pictures I had a look.  
I put the book down to watch T.V.  
Why did he give this book to me?

My question was answered very soon.  
As father came back into the room.  
His mind had told him that I'd been bad,  
What he thought I'd done had made him sad.

The book was to show me what was to be,  
He was really going to get rid of me.  
I read it again, but I felt fear.  
"Get used to it, boy, you're not staying here."

What did I do, what did he mean?  
I tried to do good, but that was never seen.  
There's nothing to do, my Mum looked sad.  
Always my father, never my Dad.



I don't think my father ever thought of me in any other way than as a bit of a joke. I later married and had family, but even when children arrived he always seemed reserved to the point that my wife was reluctant to go when asked over for lunch. I know my dad had history and an accident while playing on a fire escape had caused the death of his sister Maybe that had caused him to be the way he was. After the Inde we moved to Australia and during the Vietnam fiasco army service was compulsory so I joined the Australian Army. It was strange how all the guys I befriended before basic training were never seen again

after we had all be scalped. All of a sudden everyone was a stranger. Again it was what I had learned at the “Inde” that made it all so easy, and my two years service was no problem at all. We were at Sydney Airport ready to fly to Vietnam when the Prime Minister called it all off. I don’t know whether that was good or bad. I know I missed out on cheap housing loans, but I could have missed out on life itself ... like so many of my mates did. Life moved on after that, I had met my wife-to-be on one of the army exercises in North Queensland. We produced three kids but it all broke up after a dozen years and I never remarried. I think all the moving around throughout my childhood had turned me into a bit of a loner – forming relationship is difficult. Luckily I enjoy my own company.

Life moved on, and I think it was while I was writing my life story, that the Indefatigable and my time their came back to me, and in 2000 I decided it was time to take another look and I return for the IOBA reunion that year. I had been in touch with Jimmy Hart whose company I was to share – God bless you Jimmy for your kindness and support, it will never be forgotten. We had booked in to a little Welsh lodging house in Bangor. The owner looked after us and drove us two over to Llanfair on the day. We walked through the gates from the main road and made our way down the winding road. My emotions were playing tricks on me, memories of when I marched out in 1960. We had walked past the Chestnut tree memory and then I was confronted with the painted Car Park – this is where my story started. What a sacrilege; I was appalled. The school building itself looked so small. It was a very strange feeling. Carpeted stairs for goodness sake and the hallways too! The hours we spent scrubbing and polishing them before being allowed out on a Saturday afternoon. Aluminium windows too, it was all just too much. My regret was that I hadn’t gone back while it was still a school. Maybe I have become just a crotchety old fart in my old age. It was nice to see all the guys and the friendliness they showed; we all share a bond.

# LT-COL SIMON HALL – OBITUARY



It was with immense sadness that we learnt of the death of Lt-Col Simon Hall, from cancer, aged just 57. Simon – who was the Commandant of Joint Services Mountain Training Centre Indefatigable from 2007 to 2011 – was a

stalwart supporter of the IOBA and was instrumental in our association regaining access to the old school for the lunch and AGM. As an Old Boy of Brentwood School, Simon truly understood the ethos of the IOBA and threw himself wholeheartedly into our annual reunions.

He joined the Royal Marines in 1984 as a mature entrant after reading for a BSc in Geography at Loughborough. Specialising as a mountain leader, he passed the rigorous selection to become a member of the Special Boat Service and served with 22 SAS from 1991 to 1994. He commanded C Sqn of the SBS from 1995 to 1997, was second in command of the SBS from 2001 to 2004, and from 2004 to 2007 he commanded 23 SAS Regiment (Reserve). His appointment at the training centre gave him the opportunity to initiate a project to scale the highest mountains on each of the seven continents. In 2007 he led a successful, unguided, lightweight ascent of Mount Everest, with all eight team members reaching the summit, and the project was completed with the ascent of Mount Vinson in Antarctica in 2010.

*Beyond that last blue mountain barred with snow  
Across that angry or that glimmering sea*

**Lt-Col Simon Hall OBE, July 12 1960 – August 29 2017. R.I.P.**

# IOBA INCUMBENTS DETAILS

**President:** Sir Michael Bibby, Bt. DL

**Chairman:** Andrew Butler 77/78.

11 Stephen Bennett Close. Duston, Northampton. NN5 6PH

Tel: 01604751402 Mob: 07766471567

Email: [aib1@talktalk.net](mailto:aib1@talktalk.net);

**Vice Chairman & Archivist:** Steve Humphries 75/76.

Trinity House. 18 Orchard Drive, Wooburn Green, Bucks. HP100QN

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Email: [steve\\_c\\_humphries@btinternet.com](mailto:steve_c_humphries@btinternet.com)

**General Secretary:** Richard Lawson 85/88.

11 Jenkins Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 8NF

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Email: [indeconsultancy@gmail.com](mailto:indeconsultancy@gmail.com)

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary:** Tom Keyes 63/64.

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**Newsletter Editor:** Tony Eastham 75/76.

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**Merchandise:** Ian Parr 74/75.

Email: [ianparr1959@hotmail.com](mailto:ianparr1959@hotmail.com)

Web: [www.rolldovestudio.co.uk](http://www.rolldovestudio.co.uk)

select Indefatigable from top menu then the Inde shop link.

**Less Fortunate Member Rep** (Open ended position): Martyn Hunt  
82/85.

Email: [martyn269@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:martyn269@yahoo.co.uk)



**Web Master** (Open ended position): Owen Sutton 91/95.

**Standard Bearer** (Open ended position): Marc Hardman 61.

**Standard Bearer** (Open ended position): John Aspinall 59/60.

### **Re-elections**

Please be aware that the following positions will be open for election at the 2019 AGM:

- Chairman.
- Treasurer & Membership Secretary.
- Newsletter Editor.

Members are urged to seek further information by contacting Richard Lawson, General Secretary. If required, election will be by a confidential vote.

The remaining three electable posts (Merchandise, General Secretary and Vice Chairman) are due for re-election at the 2020 AGM.

## **“BIT OV A DO DOW SOWF”** by Martin Lynch

A chance to catch up with Owd Mates is being organised in Portsmouth for Saturday 2nd March 2019. The full details have not been ironed out at the time of going to press but what is known is that the ~~Piss-Up~~ Celebrations will kick off at The Royal Maritime Club, Queen Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3HS from about 14:00. The party will probably move on to more salubrious quarters (eg. a Weatherspoon's) around 19:00, and then probably follow on with a curry. No speeches, no agenda - just turn up and get an ale down you with old (and new) friends. See Facebook 'Southern Re-union' for the latest developments.

Discounted rooms can be booked at the Royal Maritime Club by phoning 023 9282 4231 and quoting "HMS Penelope". (Apparently the RMC didn't understand 'INDEFATIGABLE'!!)

# INDEFATIGABLE CUP

by Steve Humphries

The winners of the 2017 Indefatigable Cup were T.S. Intrepid from Cheshunt in Hertfordshire. The cup and a cheque for £1000 were presented to the most improved Sea Cadet Unit by **IOBA Chairman Andrew Butler**.



The evening was attended by: The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Vice Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, The Mayor of Broxbourne, Captain of the Sea Cadets, London Area Sea Cadets Area Officer, Senior Staff Officer (London) and London Northern District Sea Cadets District Officer. The IOBA were represented by: Bill O'Leary 74/76, Tom Keyes 63/64, and of course Steve Humphries 75/76.

As we go to press, the winners for 2018 have just been announced – congratulations go to T.S. Cunningham in East Kilbride. To quote the District Officer – *“East Kilbride are the little unit that does. If East Kilbride are aware of it then they are at it, if they can't do it yet they are working towards it.”* We look forward to making the presentation later this year.

# MINUTES OF THE 2018 AGM by Richard Lawson

## **INDEFATIGABLE 1864 – 1995 OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION 1983 – On-Going**

Welcome to the 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and the Indefatigable Old Boys Association Annual Reunion 2018.

**0945hrs on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at JSMTc Indefatigable**

**OPENING ADDRESS** Andrew Butler 77/78 Chairman:

In my second year as Chairman I believe that my feet are well and truly under the table although every day is a learning day. It's great to see some familiar faces as well as those attending the reunion and AGM for the first time. I would also like to say thank you to friends and family for supporting their men. On the behalf of the Committee I extend a warm welcome to all.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Andrew Butler 77/78 Chairman:

Sir Michael Bibby (IOBA President), Mrs Pamela Brown (IOBA Honorary Member), Rev, Canon Bob Evans (IOBA Honorary Member), Ray Manley (1952), Clive Elle (1963), Gareth Bramwell (85/87), Steve Spencer (62/64), George Brown (90/94), William Gyte (65/66), Tony Barclay (80/81), Daryl Wilkes (83/85), Chris Littlehales (63/64), Mick Loynes (75/76), Christo McCumesky (72/74), Jack Baxter (49/50), Chris Dewfall (74/75), Aaron Hewitt (91/94), Ian Patterson (59/61), Jon Pope (61/62), Jimmy Hart (59/60), Gary Gray (65/66), Gus Williams (86/87), Neil Carroll (84/87), Ashley Price (65/66), Wynne Jones (64/65), Russell Rockcliffe (84/87), Jon Pope (61/63).

**OBITUARIES RECEIVED 2016/2017** Andrew Butler 77/78 Chairman

The Chairman with sadness, asked to record the names of Indefatigable Old Boys that had been notified to the Committee as having "crossed the bar" since the last AGM. They were:

Troy Tamblin (1980/82) – Died in Jan 18 (IOBA informed 15 May 18)

Peter Jones (57/58) – Died in 2014 (IOBA Informed 11 Jan 18)

Lt Col Simon Hall OBE RM (Commanding Officer JSMTTC Indefatigable) – Died 29 Aug 17. Simon was pivotal in supporting our ambition to return to JSMTTC Indefatigable for our reunion weekends after many years in the wilderness. We have a great deal to thank him for and he will be sadly missed (IOBA Informed 19 Feb 18)

WW1 Centenary year for all those that gave their lives.

All present were asked to stand for a minute's silence.

### **2017 AGM MINUTES** Andrew Butler 77/78 Chairman

The Minutes of the Last AGM held at JSMTTC Indefatigable on Saturday 10th June 2017 @ 09:50 hrs were approved and seconded by members.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM 2017 AGM MINUTES** Andrew Butler 77/78 Chairman

The 2017 AGM Minutes were printed in the 2017 Newsletter (Dec 17) with no actions resulting.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017/2018** Andrew Butler 77/78 Chairman

The Chairman went on to report on the IOBAs affairs since the last AGM. Importantly everything remained in good order, with a supportive membership and healthy accounts, as would be confirmed in the reports from the Treasurer & Membership Secretary.

**Late Spencer Bell (1958) - Former IOBA Chairman.** On the 17th June 2017 in the Queens Honours list the late Spencer Bell (1958) was awarded The Queens Commendation for Bravery.

**Honorary Membership.** As provided for in the association's constitution I have pleasure of awarding a honorary membership to Owen Sutton (92/95) for his outstanding work in producing and managing the IOBA website. He has given so much of his time and a testimony to his invaluable commitment to the IOBA.

**Less fortunate members award.** The IOBA can help our less fortunate members, so that they can attend future Reunions. As some people, will remember, Robert Griffin was an inspirational Petty Officer & Drum Major in the late 70s. Robert sadly lost his life during the closing days of the Falklands War in 1982 (age 22). In memory of Robert the Committee felt it fitting to rename the less unfortunate award in his honour. So, the award will now be known as 'The Robert Griffin Award'. IOBA are encouraged to put nominations forward for next year's reunion.

**Review of the IOBA Constitution.** The constitution was last amended in 2013. With the appointment of the new General Secretary, the Committee decided that this was the ideal opportunity to undertake a fundamental review of the IOBA constitution. The review was concluded in early 2018 and placed on the IOBA web site.

### **The Year in Review - Highlights**

Below are the key highlights of the past year;

**10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – 35<sup>th</sup> AGM and Annual Reunion.** Where has the last year gone and my fear of what may transpire when some of the Committee stepped down has been allayed by their spirit. Hopefully many of you have seen and read my report which was in the IOBA Newsletter released in Dec 17.

**3<sup>th</sup> September 2017 - Merchant Navy Day.** The annual Liverpool Merchant Navy Service was held in Liverpool Parish Church. This was followed by a parade to the Pier Head memorial where a short ceremony took place and wreaths were laid. I regret I was personally unable to attend the event but John Farrall (49/50) laid the IOBA wreath on the behalf of all past and present Indefatigable Cadets and school staff and he was supported by John Aspinall (59/60) who was the IOBA Standard Bearer.

IOBA members in attendance on the day were; Pamela Brown MBE MStJ JP DL MNM (Honorary IOBA Member), Pat Moran (Honorary IOBA Member), Russell Jones (55/56), Marc Hardman (1961), Tom Keyes (63/64) & Steve Humphries (75/76).

**18 October 2017 - IOBA Committee Meeting.** The Committee met to discuss general issues affecting the IOBA

**01 June 2018.** The 2017 winners of the 12<sup>th</sup> TS Indefatigable Cup for the 'UK Most Improved Unit' were TS Intrepid, Cheshunt Sea Cadet Corps, **based in London.**

### **Summary.**

Finally, I owe a vote of thanks to my committee members for their unwavering support during the past year. Without their support and individual contributions this ship would soon founder.

Thank You!

### **MEMBERSHIP** Tom Keyes 63/64 Treasurer & Membership Secretary

- 250 Members as at 31 Dec 17
- 170 Paying Members (68%)
- 53 Life members (21%)
- 26 Honorary Members (10%)
- 29 Overseas Members (12%)
- 10 Members joined in the last year
- 48 moved to the delisted section after numerous attempts to make contact

### **New Members (up to 01 Jun 18).**

Thomas Dez Le Lour (87/89), Robert Luzney (1971), Kevin Gidney (72/74), Will H Jones (63/64), John Pudney (65/66), Phillip Masterson (90/93), Andrew Brierley (Assoc), Chris Barradale (58/59), Peter Dalton (72/74), Lee McShane (92/94), David J Clarke (91/94), Michael Thompson (86/90), Aaron Hewitt (91/94), David Crimlis (78/80)

## **PRESENTATION OF 2017 ACCOUNTS** - Tom Keyes 63/64 Treasurer & Membership Secretary

The Treasurer ran through FY 2017 accounts providing details of revenue (£8,736) and expenditure (£6,397) and the balance in the bank as at 31 Dec 17 (£17, 532.65).

If you would like a Summary of Accounts for 2017, please feel free to see Tom direct for a copy, which he can send to you at a later date.

### **Training Ships Memorial.**

An update was provided on the Training Ships memorial project in Liverpool. The project was being reconsidered as the location was seen as unfit due to the state of the land. We had also been informed that Conway had withdrawn from the project.

Based on the information provided the IOBA voted to formally withdraw support from the project.

### **IOBA SHOP** - Ian Parr 74/75, Merchandise

IOBA shop web site:  
[www.rolldovestudio.co.uk/rolldoveshop/cat\\_603654-Indefatigable-old-boys-association.html](http://www.rolldovestudio.co.uk/rolldoveshop/cat_603654-Indefatigable-old-boys-association.html)

### **IOBA NEWSLETTER** - Tony Eastham 75/76 Newsletter Editor

In December 2017, all paid up members should have received your copy (via mail or electronic version) of the 2017 'IOBA Newsletter'. If you have not received a copy, please see Tom/Steve/Richard/Tony and we'll get one to you. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the 2017 edition. It really is your stories that make it such a fascinating read.

We now need your contributions for the 2018 Newsletter. The format doesn't matter, it's the content that we need. Have you got any new ideas or items you'd like to see (especially those that attended in 80s/90s)? Come and have a word or drop the Editor a line.

We can lower total costs far greater by sending to those 'who wish' an electronic copy emailed to them, Please consider this option by informing the Membership Secretary Tom Keyes <emailtkeyes@gmail.com>

**IOBA WEBSITE** - Steve Humphries (75/76), Vice Chairman

Owen Sutton (91/95), IOBA Webmaster in December 2017 moved the IOBA website to the UK which has saved £300 per year. New URL is <http://indeoba.c4242423.myzen.co.uk/>

IOBA Image Archive

If you have any images relating to the 'Indefatigable School' or the 'IOBA' that you're willing to share on our flickr account please contact Steve Humphries.

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE** - Andrew Butler 77/78 Chairman

1.

The next Committee elections are not due until 2019 unless a member resigns in the interim.

**13. KEY EVENTS 2018** - Andrew Butler (77/78), Chairman

- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. National Armed Forces Day Parade – Llandudno.
- Sunday 2nd September 2018. Merchant Navy Day Liverpool.
- Saturday 8th June 2019. Date for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual IOBA Reunion?

Please check regularly on <http://indeoba.c4242423.myzen.co.uk/> for updates, where you will find various activities the IOBA participates in.

**AOB** - Richard Lawson 85/88 General Secretary

National Memorial Arboretum – IOBA Bench. The IOBA Bench located at the National Memorial Arboretum logo is badly deteriorated, and the bench is reported to be in poor condition (the bench is currently believed to be at least 14 years old). The members agreed that the old



bench be removed and replaced with a new one. It was agreed that the money raised from the glass raffle be ring fenced to pay for the bench. Options were also discussed about what to do with the old bench e.g. renovated and auctioned off or be placed at JSMTTC. These options will be discussed at the Committee Autumn meeting.

Indefatigable Lifeboat – Update. In May 17 the old fibreglass lifeboat was found on Anglesey. Its restoration is seen as a long term project by its owner Phillip Masterson (90/93).

Battle of the Atlantic Memorial – Liverpool. A planned memorial dedicated to the estimated 100,000 people who lost their lives during the Battle of Atlantic (WW2). Members agreed that we should support this and £1K should be put aside.

IOBA Member Donations. The link where members can donate to the IOBA has been moved to the membership area of the web site.

New Pat Pursar Benevolent Fund. Adam Stubbings has kindly offered to donate an unspecified amount of money in honour of Pat Pursar who was the founder of the IOBA and a generous selfless individual. Adam wishes that the money be used to support IOBA members or their family in times of need and specifically didn't want the reason for financial assistance to be bounded. The Committee and members really appreciate this kind offer in the memory of Pat and will put in place a simple process and governance measures.

**The meeting is now closed, thank you**

Saturday: 09th June 2016 @ 1130hrs



THE PARTY ONBOARD S/S GALATEA, LEAVING FOR THE CHRISTENING OF THE NEW INDEFATIGABLE 1915



TS INDEFATIGABLE BEING TOWED TO HER MOORINGS 1927

FRONT COVER: ON-STATION OFF ROCK FERRY - INDEFATIGABLE (EX HMS PHAETON) 1939