

Chapter 36

Odd Memories of My Life after the RAF

- *Betty being told by Mrs Fisher, the lady next door, at Leysholme Crescent of John's method of going indoors on his return from school: he climbed up the fall pipe to the roof, walked to the end, dropped onto the kitchen roof and then into the back yard!*
- *In a Departmental cricket match, with the opposing batsman 50 not out, and their side two behind, me bowling and knocking all the stumps down only for the umpire to indicate a no ball; the umpire was Wilf Wray and he worked for me! It was like the time all those years ago when Dad gave me out LBW at Victoria College, Alexandria.*
- *Being invited to Mick Mascus' house for tea and standing on a cake, which had just been made by his wife. The following day I took over from him.*
- *Having the maintenance people and builders dig up a number of cranes, which had been designed by a high flyer who had been allocated to me. When in use, the cranes shuddered. They were set in about 7 feet of concrete. I covered up for the chap, whose name is not mentioned in this write-up, and who later became a General Manager.*
- *Getting a 10/- raise for having the courage to get remarried! However, I had to pay for the party night beforehand.*
- *The parties we all had at George and Betty's house, particularly those at Christmas.*
- *John's magic tricks which left us all in hysterics. He was actually very good.*
- *Michael's remark that I could only get drunk on music.*
- *The noise made by CB's leg when he broke the Achilles tendon whilst playing inter departmental cricket. He came to work on crutches for several weeks.*
- *The problem we had trying to discover who was leaving obscene notes on my secretary's desk. We never found out despite the efforts of myself and our Security Officer to set a trap.*
- *Putting a copy of Winston Churchill's History of England on Cyril Brooksbank's*

desk with certain pages marked telling how the Duke of Kent and the Earl of Warwick rode North during the Battle of the Roses to rescue Yorkshire from the Duke of Lancaster.

- *The parties we had at Christmas in the General Manager's dining room.*
- *Betty and me hauling her Ford Popular back from Selby in deep snow. Our tow rope broke just outside the garage which had just decided to make some tow ropes just in case. How lucky can you get? John and Michael were in the Pop.*
- *Walter Nurnberg's visit to take a number of Industrial type pictures of operations. I was asked to take him round to ensure cooperation from all the people concerned. He was certainly a class photographer. Afterwards he invited me to dinner at the Victoria Hotel. He also gave me some books he had produced. A Catholic German, he escaped from Germany in the thirties.*
- *Hans Breitenbach, another German who worked in English Electric, who took Betty and me across Ilkley Moor from the opposite end; very bumpy! In the war he served as a Glider Pilot in the British Army. A brave chap and another Catholic.*
- *Norman Mason, our Works Dentist, breaking a nut cracker when cracking a nut. He was an ex SAS man who had been in Colditz during the war and had a grip like a vice.*
- *Walking home to "Oakroyd" from the works at Thornbury, once in fog and once in snow and finding a haven at the home of Mr & Mrs Raymond Garritt who were friends of ours from the Sacred Heart Church whom we saw every week.*
- *The rather drunken do we were involved in at a Fireman's Fest in Austria. This included an Oom-Pah band, beer and chips.*
- *All the people who worked with and for me, too many to mention in this write up. I am grateful for the help and kindness shown to me over many years.*



Phil & Raymond Garritt