

I thought that maybe some of your (sorry, Our Members) may like to see some recent photos of Vindicatrix area at Sharpness. Many will remember how it was in the 50's and the first sketch will show the Vindi Training School at it was at that time. I have included the sketch rather than the photo it was taken from as it is rather dark and unclear. Some photos of the Vindi site as it is today. It is now all fenced in but you can still get in at places and I was keen to try to find my way about the site, which proved impossible. The photo with the lamp standard still in place is I think on the parade ground where the flag mast used to stand. Also, photo of the Reunion Camp Site with all the Caravans, Campers, Motor Homes & Tents. The red brick building is the Dockers Club which you will all remember although I feel it has been extended over the years. The only building left standing today is the old admin block which stood just inside the main gate and I give you four photos of it. A photo of me standing on the foundation of my hut, I am standing about the place my bunk was situated. The reason this is clear of growth is that it is part of an overflow carpark for the marina.

The Vindi Plaque that is on the wall of the old toilet block. The Sharpness Marina where Vindi was once moored. In the early 50's when I was there, the opposite bank was just trees and undergrowth but now it all been cleared to make a very nice marina on both banks.

The photos of a new lifeboat, the story of which is as follows.

Alan Bibby was an ex Vindi boy who lived at the Merchant Seaman's War Memorial Home, Springbok Estate, Alford in Surrey. On his death during 2012 he left 25000 pounds to the Vindicatrix Association and 25000 pounds to the Springbok Estate. a fair amount of the money left to the Vindicatrix Assn went of buying a new lift raft bearing his name. The photos show the new lift raft being launched at Sharpness Reunion 2012.

Another side to this story is the Captains and the Nursing Sisters houses which still stand derelict. The reason being that both have a large amounts of asbestos in them and are fenced off with warning signs. Pity really as the Captains house has beautiful views over the river seven as as a new building plot would make a lot of money.

A photo of the supports of the old railway bridge that you will all remember ran over the river seven close to Vindi, now completely gone. Finally, a photo of Berkley Castle which many of you would have visited whilst at Vindi. A large warehouse now stands where the 'Flying Angel' once stood.

Finally; I attach a copy of a letter I received from 'The Springbok Estate' which is their excuse for changing the name. Members should remember that the Springbok Estate was given to the MN after WW2 as a 'Thank You' for the work we did for them. It is an Estate of over 200 acres and valued at several millions of pounds.

And Finally, Finally, honest. A photo of me and my brother at the Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium. I was Standard Bearer for the MN Assn Suffolk Branch and my brother was Standard Bearer for the RAF Assn, Suffolk. We had been invited by the Army Garrison at Colchester although I have been there before and since.