

## THE BOXING MATCH AT BEAFORD.

In January 1950 I along with Nick Linden who lived down West Lane and Bill Short who hailed from Petrockstowe were buying fish and chips from Bill Clement's mobile fish and chip van, he told us a boxing match in aid of The Beaford British Legion was being arranged between the Bideford boxing club and the Bideford army cadets and they were also looking for local talent to take part, jokingly, or so we thought, Bill Clements asked us if we would volunteer to take part, we said yes we would, thinking nothing more would come of it, about a week or so later we were surprised to see a large poster in the van with our three names on it listed as 'local talent', so this meant we were now fully committed. Both Nick and I were not entirely new to boxing having often sparred together in Nick's living room in West Lane with the furniture pushed to one side.

The boxing match was to take place at 7.30 on March 1<sup>st</sup> 1950 at the Victory Hall, Beaford, Nick had been matched with Bill Short and I was to fight a member of the army cadets named Otto Senik who lived at Weare Giffard.

We cycled to Beaford that evening arriving at the victory hall and sat anxiously in the changing room waiting for the other competitors to turn up, when they eventually arrived we found them a friendly bunch of lads and sat for a while chatting to them. Surprisingly no one had thought to set up a proper boxing ring in the hall so members of the audience were obliged to form a square holding the rope in their hands, fortunately there was a selection of boxing gloves provided by the two clubs otherwise it might have turned out to been a complete 'slaughter of the innocents'.

Otto and I were first on the bill and after three rounds our match was declared a draw by the referee whereupon we both got changed and decamped to the local pub missing the rest of the evenings entertainment, Nick and Bill's match was also declared a draw.

Nick who sadly is no longer with us went on to win boxing medals both in the Royal Artillery and the Metropolitan Police.

*Bill Baker.*

**BRITISH LEGION, BEAFORD.**

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**BOXING**

TOURNAMENT

will be held in the

**VICTORY HALL**

On Wednesday, March 1st, 1950.

Bideford Army Cadets V. Bideford Boxing Club  
and Local Talent.

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Bill Baker, Dolton	v.	Otto Senik, B.A.C.
Bill Short, Little Torrington	v.	Nick Linden, Dolton.
Cadet Coombes, B.A.C.	v.	Gerald Lee, B.B.C.
Cadet Hew	v.	Garfield Watkins, B.B.C.
L/C. Short	v.	Len Wrey, B.B.C.
Bob Wrey	v.	Len Tythcott, "
Cpl. Sprey	v.	George Clifford, "
Raymond Scoynes	v.	D. Coombes, "
Arthur Cole	v.	Arthur Wright

Judges - Messrs. C. Bright and W. Skinner.  
Referee - To be nominated by the Bideford Boxing Club.  
M.C. - Mr. H. Cole. Medical Officer - Dr. Maitland Jones.  
Seconds - Messrs. V. Folland and F. Squires. Timekeeper - Mr. F. Briggs.

Prices: Reserved Seats 3/- and 2/6, Unreserved 2/-  
Doors open 7 p.m. - Commence 7.30 p.m. sharp.  
Bookings taken by Post up to February 28th, to A. Headford, Hon. Sec., Beaford, N.D.

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