

## Introduction

My father Albert William Martin was a gifted self-taught engineer who achieved great success with flash steam model power boats in the 1930's. The full story can be seen on the net by googling "Bert Martin flash steam". Given this background it is understandable that he sought full time employment with British Power Boat at Hythe.

It is obvious from his account that his time at BPC left a great impression on him. The Adrian Rance book on Scott Paine stirred many memories both good and bad. He felt strongly that the book painted too rosy a picture of BPC as employers and he wanted to set the record straight.

His account shows that BPC could be, and were, hard and tyrannical employers like many at the time. Equally it shows that the human spirit strengthens in times of adversity. The workforce was not cowed and they enjoyed their small victories eg. saving a mate, "fixing" the rate fixer and enjoying their illicit cuppas.

Dad's emotions were very mixed. He had a high regard for "Scotty" and he enjoyed many aspects of his boatyard work but his deep resentment of the unfairness of the regime finally forced him to leave.

It is amazing that after 55 odd years he was able to remember so much and paint such a clear picture of the yard in its prime. When he says he left a bit of himself in every job he had, the BPC portion must have been very large indeed.

Tony Martin  
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