

**RAF STONEY CROSS**  
**Memories of Life at Longbeech**

**Mr. Robert Lewis**

I have heard from my mother Mrs Mary Lewis that you are collecting photos and stories about life in the Long Beach camp in the early fifties. Looking back, this now seems like another world.

I can clearly remember being a young child living in our Nissen hut with its tarred corrugated tin roof. I can still remember the address - 331 Long Beach. I was about four when we went there and I left after being at Bramshaw School for about a year, so I must have been between 5 and 6 years old. We had to share our toilet that was in an outside block, with the people next door. In our kitchen my mother used to cook using a primus stove or on the open range (that is what it is called). We used to have regular forays into the woods to get dry wood for it. My Dad painted pictures of Disney cartoons, Mickey Mouse, and friends, on our tin roof ceiling just to make it a bit more cheerful.

For me life was very good, in the summer we had ponies wandering outside of our garden. I could play under the trees and as children we seemed to have so much freedom.

In my mind, the sun was always shining but I do remember a very cold spell when there was so much snow that my dad had trouble driving his car (a black Ford Perfect) up the hill to the top of the camp.

I have attached two photos. The one of me aged four shows our hut on the left and my dad's caravan on the right that he built inside the hut. One day he just brought all the sides out from our spare room and constructed a caravan by the side of hut. Our neighbours could not believe it! We then went off on holiday in it. No MOT tests in those days.

The second photo is taken south of our hut. We were next to a large green where the ponies often grazed. Happy, carefree days.

I know that I have some other photos, but I cannot think where they are.

If you want any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Bob Lewis

If you have any information about the camp during the fifties or the war

period, I would be interested to hear.