

Robert Edward Gee, known as Bob, passed away on 28th December 2014 after a short illness at age 89 in South Bristol Community Hospital.

Born on 7th June 1925 in Clifton, Bristol, Bob was the middle of 3 brothers. With his parents, Granville and Margaret and Brothers Dan and Peter, the family lived in a number of addresses in Clifton until the outbreak of World War 2 when he was evacuated and worked in the coal mines of South Wales as a Bevan Boy for three and a half years

As soon as he was able, Bob enlisted and served as an infantryman in the Royal Gloucestershire Regiment before transferring to 2nd Parachute Regiment and serving in a number of campaigns around the world. He also represented the regiment in cross country running and boxing, suffering only one defeat.

After leaving the army he returned to Bristol and was working in a steel factory when he met Jean Bond. They would marry on 23 October 1954 and celebrate their 60th anniversary just before his death. They bought a house in St. George and lived there until the mid-70s when they moved to Clifton. Two years later they noticed the house in St George was again up for sale and unusually bought it back.

In December 1953 Bob joined Bristol Fire Brigade. He went on to serve much of his service at Bridewell before becoming the leading breathing apparatus instructor and moving to the new Avon Fire Brigade HQ and training facility at Temple Back in 1972, retiring after a brain haemorrhage in 1977.

Bob and Jean have two sons, Andy followed his dad into the fire service and Dave pursued a career in laboratory work. Both have 2 children who Bob and Jean would spend many happy hours with.

After retiring from the fire service Bob worked for Blyths, a safety wear supplier as their breathing apparatus service engineer and trainer, finally retiring at age 70 in 1995.

Bob enjoyed good health and spent much of his retirement with the grand children who have some very special memories of their Grandpa. He was a regular participant at fire brigade pensioners' group events where he loved to reminisce with old colleagues. He also liked to potter in the garden, sawing fire wood by hand and raking leaves for exercise.

His funeral was held on 16th January 2015 at Westerleigh Crematorium where a packed congregation warmly remembered the dry wit and good nature of the gentleman who was Bob Gee.