



## A drinking memory of Colin ('Sandy') Powell from circa 1971-2 recalled by his colleague Roger (Rip) Smith

This is an alcohol fuelled reminiscence of a drunken night out with Sandy sometime during 1971-2 when we and our wives attempted to gain entry to a party in a flat overlooking Durdham Downs. The conversations between ourselves and the party organiser, who knew we were firemen, got rather heated and we were told to leave. As we were rejected one or both of us made injudicious comments about using our axes to break in!!!



I forgot all about it until receiving a telephone call from ADO/DO Silman who asked if I owned a car registered CHT 556C. I confirmed that it was my car; he then told me that I had to be in the Chief Fire Officer's (Fred Revelle) office the next morning. I became somewhat worried, and asked why, but despite my best endeavours could not find out any reasons for this august summons.

It transpired that the flat where we had threatened to use fire brigade equipment for extra-curricular purposes belonged to a friend of the Chief Officer, and that the flat occupants had taken my car number as we drove away.

Well, the difficult interview went something like this. Chief officer to me. "I understand that your attempted attendance at a flat owned by a friend of mine caused embarrassment to the brigade. I'm therefore resorting to common law, and discharging you from the brigade." Barry Hook the admin officer interjected, and said: "Don't you think you are being a bit hard on Smith?"

At this junction the Chief said: "I understand there was another fireman with you." I replied: "Wild horses will not drag his name from me sir." He replied: "You're fired." I immediately sang like a canary saying Powell Powell Powell!!!. The next day Sandy was in front of the Chief and we were both told that any further transgressions of this nature would be dealt with severely.

Both my wife and I continued to drink with Colin/Jenny at such haunts as The Druids Arms at Stanton Drew and continued meeting socially for many years before eventually losing touch.

Sandy was a 'character', and I shall always remember him for his 'devil may care' attitude. I doubt the Avon Fire & Rescue Service will see his like again. Only time will tell!