

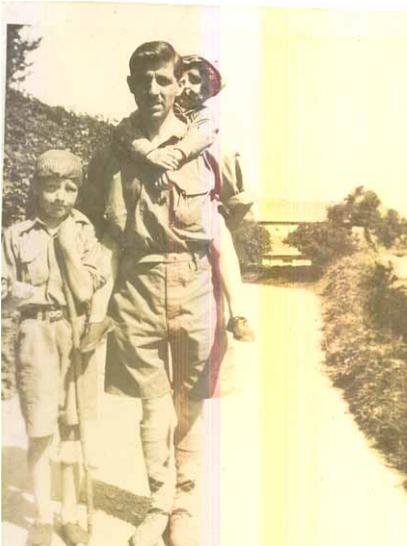
GUMMER'S HOW 1054FT

This dear little insignificant Lakeland fell, overlooking Lakeside at the southern end of Lake Windermere, did not appear in Wainwright's original guide books.



Summit looking north RS 08/06

In August 1936, the family Stansfield were staying at Little Thorpinsty Farm, in Cartmell and my father led my brother Douglas and I to its summit thus distinguishing it as my very first ascent of a "mountain".



Father, Douglas and Bob , Gummers How 8.36

This summer I have been hard at work on my memoirs and retracing my early years in "A Lancashire Childhood", the first chapter.

I traced my copy of Wainwright's "Outlying Fells" and his comments on Gummer's How (Page 44). He seems to like the fell but relegates it for use by ancient fellwalkers wondering whether it is time that they hung up their boots.

I hung my walking boots in the hall when I returned from hospital three years ago with only a quarter of my heart serviceable, but I took them down again, polished them and with my dear friend Clarke, reached the summit, breathless but elated, in an hour, just double the time estimated by Wainwright.



Summit Gummers How 08/06

This was my first fell walk for a quarter of a century and the weather was very kind to us. After driving north in pouring rain the sun came out and the mists cleared as we started our walk.

On to lunch at Bowland Bridge and a photograph outside the post office where, as a boy, I replenished my supply of sweets whilst father had a drink at the Horse and Hounds.

My boots are back on the wall again, but I will treasure, 70 years later, the wonderful views from the summit, as the high peaks emerged from the mist, as they did when I was a boy of 10, so very long ago

So, it turned out that my very last mountain walk was, appropriately my very first one, with seventy years of magical mountain moments in between.



70 years on - The Post Office, Bowland Bridge