

# X-RAY BRAVO ALPHA

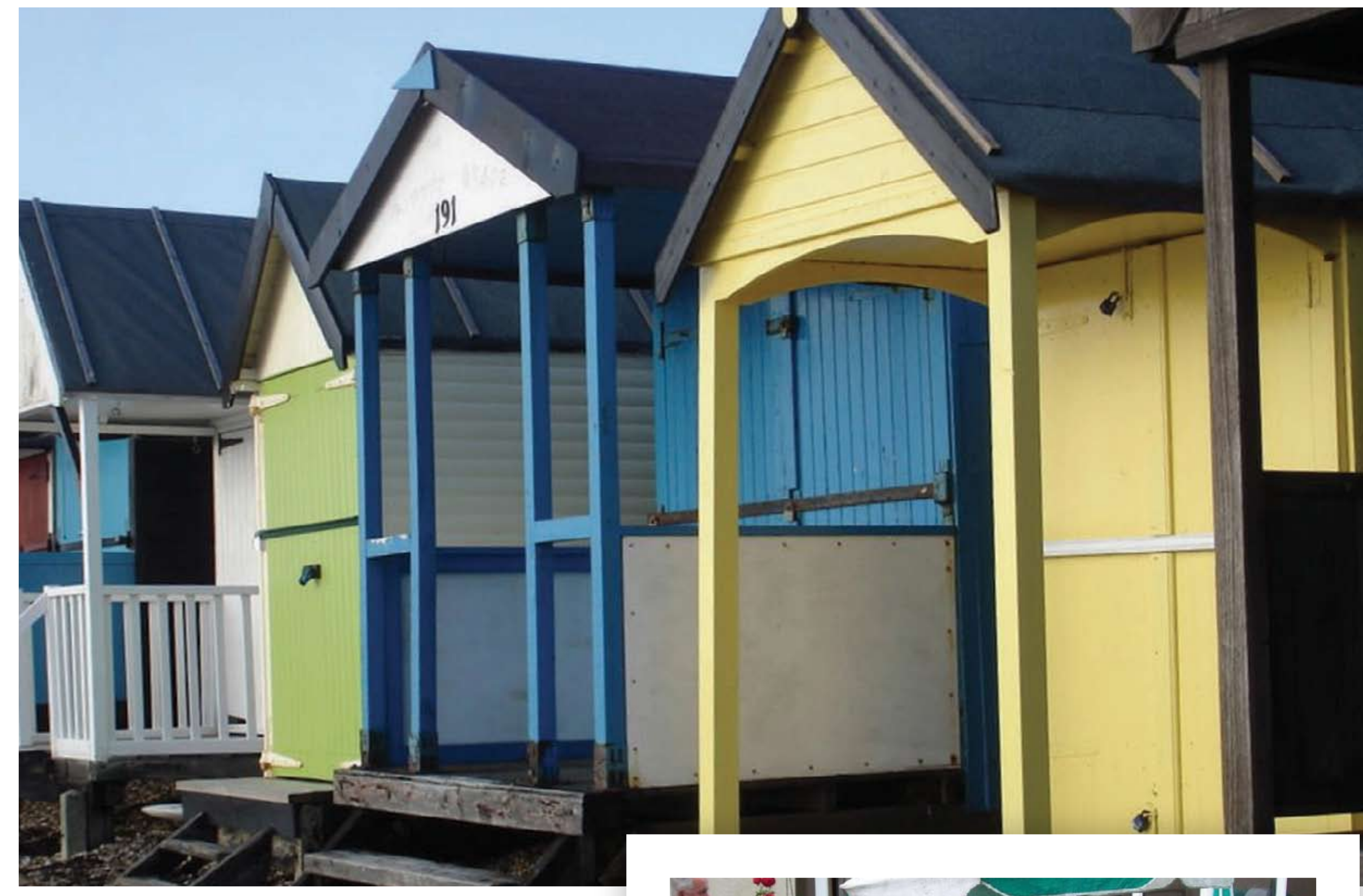
## *The Southend Experience*



Despite being pitched into a new environment, all of us felt part of a Team, knit together by our common backgrounds as Qantas ex-apprentices with a love of this particular 707. For many of us, it was the flagship of the Qantas fleet at the time of our joining the Company. This 707 had a special place in our aviation memories. Many people have said that it was a pity that XBA hadn't been stored in the desert, where the environment might have been less harsh. However, had it been located in Arizona for example, then the project would never have had such a supportive environment

in which to thrive. It is true to say that Southend and its people are inextricably linked to the success of the rescue.

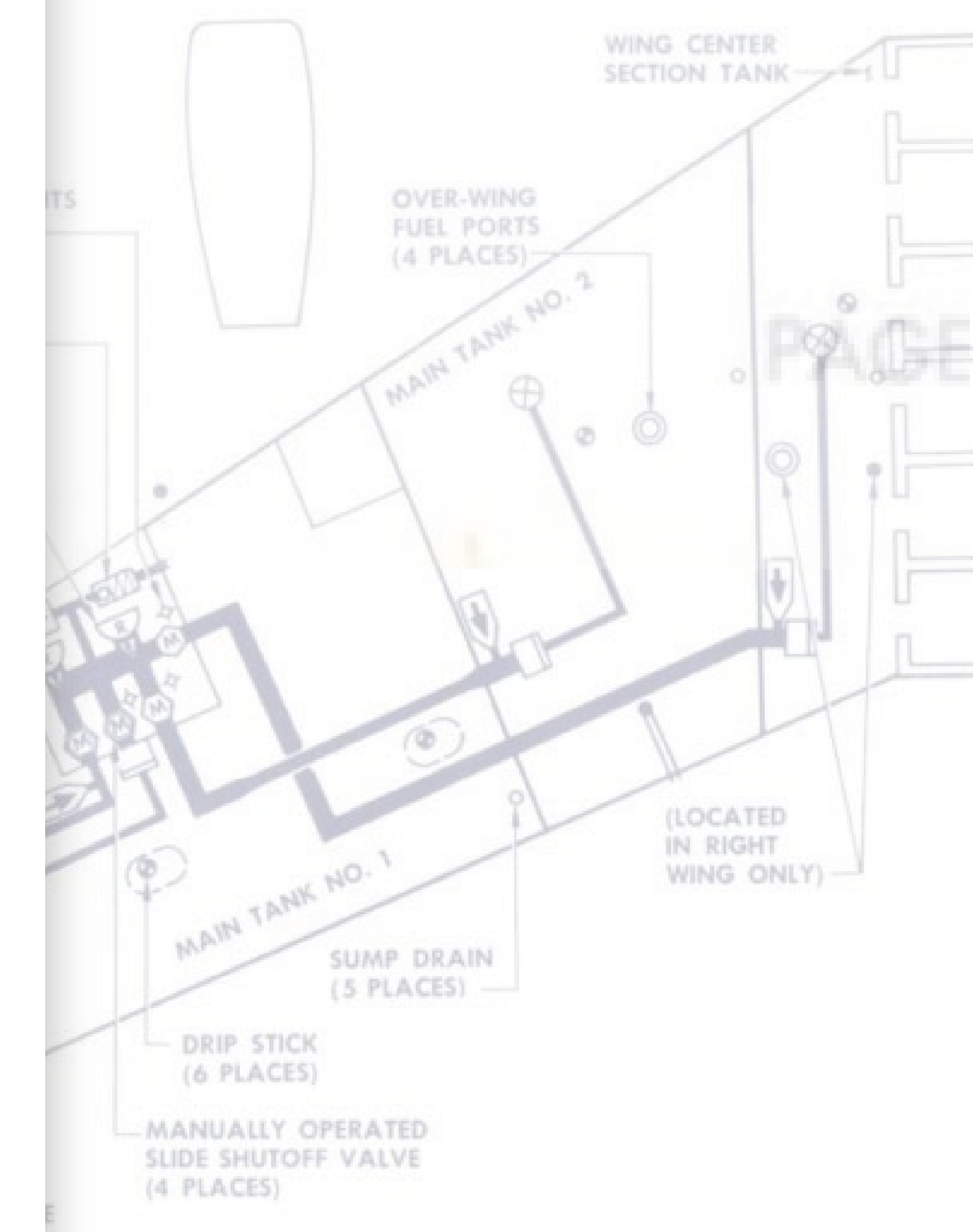
We were extremely fortunate to have been located not just at Southend but in the immediate care of ATC Lasham Ltd. Were it not for this company, whose Hangar Manager, **Ian Dorling**, did everything possible to provide us with assistance, XBA might still be in the UK. From work stands, tooling, utilities such as power, compressed air and communications, the use of a hangar for the undercarriage retraction test, advice with parts location and purchase, all the way to the basics such as washroom facilities and photocopying, all were cheerfully and generously provided.



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Above all, Ian and his engineers provided the encouragement and friendship that made it such a pleasure to go out to Southend Airport to do a day's work. The friendships formed over the months we spent under ATC Lasham's umbrella are very special indeed. Our home away from home, The Erlsmere Hotel, may have had some idiosyncrasies, with its squeaky floorboards, heated rooms in summer, hot water for only one guest at a time and Dave, the resident chain-smoker but it was all part of the experience. To balance off the account, we happily were treated to many a dining-in night when a menu that came close to home cooking kept our spirits high when accompanied by the fun that comes with communal dining.

*The Southend experience couldn't have been better.*



**BOEING**  
**707**