



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE OLD COMRADES LINK UP NEWSLETTER #119 MAY 2017



NEW CONTACTS

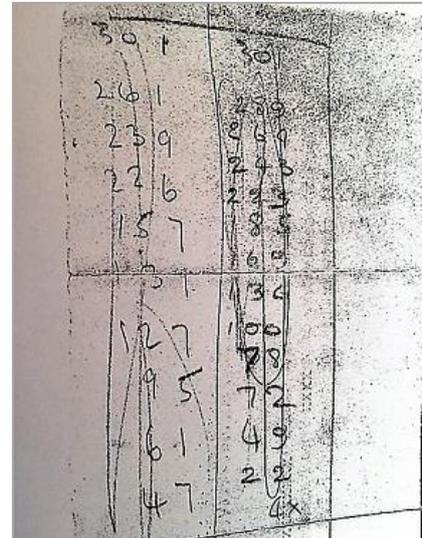
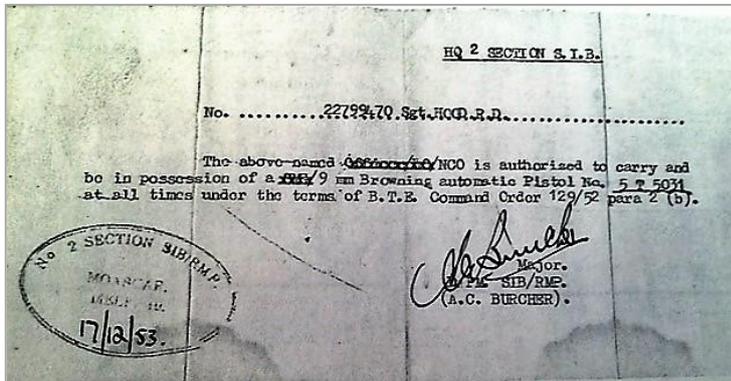


HODGES

Former 24211038 Warrant Officer Class 2 Chris Hodges. Chris joined the Corps in 1970 and served with 11 Armoured Brigade, 7 Armoured Brigade (two tours), 174 Provost Company (NI) (two tours), 177 Provost Company (NI), 200 Provost Company, 156 Provost Company, 256 Provost Company (V), 175 Provost Company and RMPTC Chichester. He left the Corps in 1988.

YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

Following on from an article on what you kept from your service days Don Hood contacted me from his home in The States and said, 'Found this in my old papers. It is a permit to carry a side arm from my time in the Canal Zone. When I turned it over I found that I had put the paper to much better



use, a long time ago to record the score from a game of darts. Why and how it survived from the zone to the left hand drive side of the Pond, I have no idea, maybe it's time for a cave clear out?'

-ooOoo-



Trevor Margetson contacted me from OZ and gently, but cruelly, reminded me that although the locals were coming into autumn the temperature was about 29 degrees. He also said, 'The latest 'Old Comrades' was another great read and I thought you would like to see how well we kept our parade ground so smart in Aden, November 1956. We had formed 24 Brigade as a rapid response unit and our section

of 24 Bde Pro Unit was despatched from Barnard Castle, Co Durham with the Durham Light Infantry (DLI). Without really knowing where we were going we arrived by train at Woolwich Barracks where we parted with the DLI and spent the night on paillasse before flying out of Blackbushe in a Hermes aircraft (Civvy version of the old Hastings) via Marseilles, Kano in Nigeria, Entebbe in Uganda and on to Aden. We thought it was the end of the earth but after a few days we moved up to Sharjah and then we knew we were at the end of the earth.'





I promised that this issue would be dedicated to sport but I think I will have to spread that over two editions as a great deal has been sent in. The first photograph was taken on the 4th April 1990 and shows the RMPTC Corporals' Mess Football team that won the Fred Gill Trophy. L – R rear: Cpls Fallow, Whitcome, Orr, List, Gatehouse, LCpl Roberts, Cpls Firby and Cavanagh. In the front row Cpls MacDonald, Bray, Foster, Parnell and Hall.

I make no apologies for including the next photograph which I know I have already used in a previous edition. It shows a number

of former members of the Corps who were exceptional players in their time. I was reminded of this photograph at the Reunion Weekend when I saw Alan Trumper and Dave Paynter. Sadly quite a few of them are no longer with us.



Now a change to reflect sunnier days and the sound of leather on willow. It is a photograph



taken of the Depot and Training Establishment 1st XI in 1948. Featured from left to right as normal are: Rear Row. LCpls C Williams, E Jones, D Fretwell, Capt Harding, WO2 E Marshall, Sgt E Murphy, LCpl Norris, Maj T Baker and Sgt A Miller. In the front we have Prob H Reynolds, Sgt R Ellis (Captain), Maj A Burcher (Sports Officer), QMSI E Tiley and Cpl S Scrase.



The photograph on the left was taken from a paper cutting supplied by Wally Payne and shows Dave Cooper. Wally said of him, 'Dave Cooper, a player who could have made it in the top grade. He was selected to play for Hong Kong against an Austrian professional outfit ahead of Chung Chi-Doy, Hong Kong's equivalent of Bobby Charlton. For many, many years I've tried to contact Dave, but to no avail.'



Now I take you back a decade or two to an age when the noble art of boxing was certainly more common than it is in the services today. Shown above is the D&TE Boxing Team from 1949. In the rear row we have LCpl M O'Gara, Sgt Jones, LCpl B Shield, Prob R White, LCpl D Flint and LCpl M McNulty. Centre row: LCpl Ogden, Cpl P Hudson, LCpl P Stanwood, Prob R Rola, LCpl D Moorehead, LCpl I Walker and LCpl D Ellett. In the front row we have, Prob A Arnold, QMSI A La Frenais APTC, Maj Marriott The Buffs, Lt Col F Grayson Irish Guards Commandant, Lt V Abplanalp RWK, LCpl Bearham and Cfn L Mulvey REME.



Now for something a little different and which you will not see much of these days as motor-cycles seem to have vanished from the Corps. This is the D&TE team which won the Kolar Cup, Connaught Trophy at the Aldershot District Motor Cycle Championship in 1955. From left to right we have LCpl T Hoole, Cpl R Kearsley, Capt A Betty and LCpl R Langstone. Looking a little closer at the photograph I notice that there are a number of different motor cycles on show. Can anyone confirm if the machine on the right is a BSA? Most of us from my era will remember WO2 Tiger Tims. Alas, all has changed and now

civilian firms are contracted to instruct on driving and motor cycles are a thing of the past, well for our Corps at least. Nostalgia is oozing out of me as I write.

It is when you get to the odd corner that you have to find the photograph which just fits and this one taken in 1969, is of RMP Malta. Names are: back row Bowden, RSM, Archer, Stone, O'Leary, Trumper and Brailsford. Kneeling: McFaden, Tompkins, Kelly, Payne and Sankey.





Just to take a break from sport I have to report that I received the following article from Mike Hewitt. 'Last week here in Northern Ireland the Balmoral Agricultural Show took Place and on Saturday 13th May the local paper published a few pages of shows of the past. On one of the pages was a photograph of two WRAC Provost on duty in 1967, according to the article they were from London. Their names are Cpl Sheila Mitchell and Cpl Marilyn Watt and they were there to direct the traffic. I have enclosed a copy of the photo as best as I could get it from the paper. I know that RMP did attend other Balmoral shows as

in the eighties the Mounted Troop and Motorcycle Display team were there because I was at that particular show as a Civvy. It would be interesting to find these two Cpls. I realise that it has been sometime since then so who knows what might have happened in their lives' *Ed: If anyone can help in tracing either of these two former members of the WRAC please let me know.*

119 (L of C) PROVOST UNIT CMP

Like the previous company that was featured 119 Provost Unit was based in India during the Second World War. I have only been able to access information which mainly covers the latter part of 1944. In the January of that year it is thought the unit was station in Ramu which is located in the south west of the country. Captain PD Dodd was Officer Commanding. Major Thompson was APM 404 Area and Captain J Jackson was DAPM 451 Sub Area. A Lieutenant BH Hobson KSLI was also serving but it is not known in what capacity.

On the 12th November 1944 information was received from 31 Indian general Hospital that 1415 L/Naik Daryao Singh had died in the hospital from typhus. Advice was sought from 88 Indian General Hospital on what precautions were to be taken and this resulted in the area being thoroughly burnt by using petrol and all tents and kit being disinfected.

Four days later on the 16th November information was received from 87 Indian General Hospital that MP/1313 Sepoy Feroz Khan had been placed on the seriously ill list suffering from typhus. He had originally been admitted with an undiagnosed fever. Khan later died.

There was a change of Officer Commanding on the 28th November when Captain RM Weatherington RA took over from Captain Dodd. On the 16th December Warrant Officer 1st Class (Regimental Sergeant Major) Noble was presented with the George Medal by Field Marshal Wavell at Imphal. The only other piece of information I could glean is that MP/2348 Gulham Sarwar died but it is not known what the cause of death was.

RMP ASSOCIATION



Over the weekend of the 12th – 14th May the 71st Annual Reunion was held in Cardiff, hosted by the South Wales Branch. Members began to gather from around the world on the Friday from far afield including Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Jersey and even the Isle of Man.

As is customary the Trustees' Meeting and the Annual General Meeting were held during the day on the Saturday as a prelude to the main event which took place in the evening. The Guest of Honour was Brigadier Robert Aitken CBE, the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent. Also present was the Honorary President of the Association, Major General BJ Bathurst CBE and the Provost Marshal (Army), Brigadier DS Neal. Prior to the dinner the attendees were entertained by the Cardiff Arms Park Male Voice Choir.

Within the main body was a group holding a "Reunion within a Reunion" and they were all former members of Squad 106 complete with their Squad Instructor Sergeant (later Warrant Officer Class 1) Wayne Campbell. Also worthy of note was the presentation of a Certificate of Merit to Paul Jones and William Sheridan, both of Northern Ireland Branch. In addition to the certificate Bill was present with a glass tankard showing appreciation for the eight years he had served the Association

as a Trustee. Father Peter Newsam, who has been the Corps and Association Padre for the past seventeen years, was presented with a departing gift. Speaking personally I will miss his Lessons during services, to me they always hit the mark and never failed to raise a smile. He will be a hard act to follow.

In true Corps spirit the Sunday morning saw the members banishing any hangovers with a full English which would have any Diabetic Nurse in tears. This was all to fortify the mind and body for the Drumhead Service which took place on the lawn in front of the City Hall.

The climax of the event was the march past the entrance to the City Hall where our Honorary President took the salute. It always seems to go better when the band is present and this time was no exception as I believe we all made it and kept in step. Rumour has it that one or two members were seen applying WD40 to their NHS knees and hips but it must have worked.

All in all a fantastic weekend and even the weather was kind to us, despite some rain falling. South Wales Branch are to be congratulated on a wonderful weekend and I know I should not single any individual out but I will, Steve McManus, who seemed to be everywhere. Well done Steve.



Photograph courtesy of George Woodall

-ooOoo-

As a result of a recent exchange of e-mails I have been in contact with Colonel Glenn Wahlert RACMP Colonel Commandant and Nation President of the Military Police Association of Australia (MPAA). He mentioned that he served for three years with 156 Provost Company as an exchange officer 1982 – 1984 under Tony Figg (*I am assuming that Tony Figg would have been Major and Officer Commanding at that time*) and completed a Close Protection Course in late 1984. I would be happy to pass on regards from any of you that remember him.

-ooOoo-

Der aktuelle GUARD REPORT (Mai 2017) ist online und beschäftigt sich in seinem Leitartikel mit einem fast vergessenen Kommandeur der Berliner Brigade.

http://248gsu.de/index.php/der-guard-report/gp_download/send/3-guard-report/279-guard-report-mai-2017

INFORMATION AND NOTICES

You may or may not have seen that on Friday 7th July 2017 The Royal British Legion will mark the centenary of the formal recognition of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), the first time women were fully enrolled in the UK Armed Forces, by holding a Drumhead Ceremony and Lunch Reception at the National Memorial Arboretum. The event will commemorate **all women who have served the Crown on operations**, from all services. This will be a large-scale, exciting and significant, national event for women to come together to celebrate 100 years of dedication and service.

The 2015 Annual Population Survey provides us with the latest statistics on the number of female veterans living in Great Britain, of which there are apparently an estimated **270,000**. Of these, 127,000 are estimated to be under 65 years old, whilst 143,000 are estimated to be older than 65 years. We have had a good response from the online sign up to this event, but bearing in mind the aforementioned statistics, we're definitely not reaching the hundreds of thousands of women we should! It is so important that we reach out to all women who are able to attend this event.

Guests will need to be seated by 11:45 for the Drumhead Ceremony, which will be followed by a Lunch Reception. The National Memorial Arboretum will be open from 09:00 – 17:00 and we encourage guests to take the opportunity to explore the more than 300 thought-provoking memorials that can be found on the 150-acre site. There will be guest parking at the NMA and, for those coming by train, a free shuttle bus service between the Arboretum and both Tamworth and Burton-upon-Trent stations will be provided. You can find more information on how to get to the Arboretum on the NMA Website.

Guest places are available to women who have served the Crown on military operation or in uniform.

Registration is online at www.britishlegion.org.uk/women100

If you have any queries about the event, you can email the Royal British Legion's Commemorative Events team women100@britishlegion.org.uk. Registration closes 9 June. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Catherine Jack
Commemorative Events Manager
Direct: 020 3207 2228
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CJack@britishlegion.org.uk

-ooOoo-

Calling all of you that served in 1 (Br) Corps Provost Company. There is to be a reunion dinner at The Village Hotel, Walsall on the 28th October 2017. If you require further information please contact me.

CAN YOU HELP

B4A SUPERTROOP

The following was received from Graham Tidbury, former member of the Army Air Corps. 'I write on behalf of my former colleagues who trained as Junior Leaders at the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Armoured Corps. In Bovington Camp. Uniquely we were a troop formed by both potential RMP and AAC recruits that were deemed to be future leaders. We passed out of training on 15 December 1977. We were Titled B4A. Christened `Supertroop`

A reunion was held last year to commemorate the start of training. However not everyone was able to be found. This year a bigger effort is being made to mark the **40th Anniversary** to contact all

those who passed out as B4A. We would therefore be very grateful if you could contact the persons listed below, who passed out to RMP Continuation training. Should this not be possible could you please put a mention in any newsletters or magazines to advertise our Reunion on the **2nd December 2017** in Norwich (venue yet to be confirmed)

They can contact me at graham.tidbury@ntlworld.com or visit our Facebook -B4AAAC&RMP Pass out Dec19.

Missing Members :- Alan Bettaney, Allan M Crickmore, Martin Devlin, Barrie R Gill,
Steven G Hawkrige, Mark H Hoffman, Kevin M Johnson, Larry Jordan,
Elliot W C Kay, Michael A Lambert, Martin N Marriott, Carlo R Morselli,
David V Powell, Stephen C Roberts, Steven Shore, Keith Thomas, Lawrence A
Tilley, Michael S Whittick and Steven Yates.

We would also like to invite if found, our then Troop Leader - Lt AP Collins RMP, our instructor troop Sergeant, Sgt Riordan RMP and our weapons instructor SSgt A Hayton RMP. Your assistance in this matter would be very appreciated by all.'

DEATHS

BRAZIL

Former 23228155 Brian Brazil passed away on the 22nd April 2017. Following his National Service which began in 1955 Brian went on to be a Chief Inspector in the Gloucestershire Constabulary.

WILLIAMSON

Former Corporal Ian Robert Williamson passed away on Friday 5th May 2017 following a short illness. Ian served with the TAVR (Reserves) from 9th May 1972 until the 8th May 1980 and is one of three brothers who served or who are still serving in the Corps.

-ooOoo-

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