



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE OLD COMRADES LINK UP NEWSLETTER #121 JULY 2017



NEW CONTACTS



RIORDAN

23996515 Sergeant David Michael Riordan. Dave served from 1964 until 1977 with the following units: Cyrennaica Area Provost Company (Malta and Cyprus), 247 Provost Company, AFCENT Holland, 4 Division Provost Company, 115 Provost Company, 175 Provost Company and JLR Bovington.

RIORDAN (nee WILLIAMS)

W/432653 Lance-Corporal Jacqueline Susan Williams. Jackie served from 1967 until 1969 with 158 Provost Company, Rheindahlen Garrison Provost Company and 247 Provost Company.

SKED

23742389 Corporal James Sked is being reintroduced as I have now updated information. Jim served between 1962 and 1969 with 11 Infantry Brigade Unit, 99 Infantry Brigade Unit, 200 Provost Company and 173 Provost Company. This came about as I was able to put Adrian Wilson in touch with him after some forty years. The systems does work but also highlights the need to keep information updated.

YOUR CORRESPONDENCE



I mentioned Adrian Wilson above and he sent in the following photograph about which he said, 'The enclosed unit photo was taken in Minden in 1964 where I (back row fourth from the left) was serving with 11 Inf Bde. Although I went on to serve another 20 years after this I only ever met again one of the lads shown and that was Jimmy Sked (front row

second from the left) whom I met again two years later in Borneo with 99 Gurkha Inf Bde, that is until 31st May this year. Spotting by chance an email address with a long-forgotten name in your monthly newsletter I got in touch on the off chance it might be one of the lads in the photo - and it was. It was Dave Bullen (back row far left) He was starting out on a touring holiday of the south and we arranged to meet at a near-by caravan park. 54 years after our days together in Minden and Hameln (Hamlin) we met again as can be seen in the photo. We have both changed a bit since then but the years rolled away and we talked for hours ending up, along with our respective wives at a near-by pub for a meal. After more than half a century I was able to name only five of the blokes in the photo but remarkably Dave named every single one of them.'



Eric Bradbury contacted me and said, 'Just been talking to my old pal Walter Anderson from 170 Provost Company, Glasgow, who asked me to let you know that he seems to have dropped off your newsletter circulation list. Could you put him back on please? I note that there is never any mention of 170 Provost Company in Scotland and I wonder if any of the lads in either or both Glasgow detachment and Edinburgh Company in 1953/5 are still around. *Ed: I have sorted Walter out. OK, all you former 170 guys raise your voices and send a message via me to Eric.*

Jim McIntosh has taken time out from the odd round of golf to raid his albums and has sent three photographs which cover football and cricket and relate to his time in the Special Investigation Branch. Now, like many of us, names do slip away over the years so Jim, and I, are looking for names.



The first photograph is of the SIB UK Football Team c1982. Rear row: Neil Lurcock, Harry Wise, Alec Turnbull, Bob Loftus, John Wooldridge and Taff Jones. Front row: N/K, Roy Whitfield, Jim, Terry Burroughs.

The second photograph was of the SIB UK Team taken at the final of the Britannia Cup in 1983. Rear row: Taff Jones, next



three N/K, Dave Sharp, Terry Burroughs and Lt Col Barry Hughes-Jones who was CO. Front row: N/K, Pete Smith, N/K, N/K and Harry Wise



SIB UK Cricket Team c1981. Rear row: First three N/K, Harry Wise, Jim, Mike Glover and the last N/K. Front row: N/K, Christ pert, Lenny Wassell and the remaining two not known.



So, anyone out there who can add to the names please let me know.

-ooOoo-

It was March 2016 when former Corps member Peter Richards came up with an idea to hold a

Reunion of former 7 Armoured Brigade Pro Unit RMP and 111 Provost Company RMP, affectionately calling the event Hohne RMP REDCAP RATS re-union (though this of course included Falligbostel). This was not Peter's first re-union however, having brought cohorts of the old and bold across to Hohne on a number of occasions spanning back some 21 years. The concept was posted on social media with a central location being chosen as the Holiday Inn, Walsall. Much to everyone's surprise, the uptake was phenomenal and within a few short months all of the hotels especially reserved rooms had been booked. Step in to the fray some of Peter's original hosts from 10 Platoon 111 Pro Coy RMP who now found themselves not only as part of the Old and Bold Brigade, but also assistants in organising and administering what would turn out to be a fantastic weekend get together. The weekend finally arrived and on Fri 12 May 17, guests started to arrive from as far and wide as Portugal, The Netherlands and all points of the UK. They were greeted at the hotel by Tina Kilnan and Matt Starmer who confirmed all administrative and itinerary requirements. Once all were settled, a curry buffet and disco really kicked off proceedings. Old friendships were re-kindled, new ones were made and more than enough social beverages went 'down range'. Saturday arrived and with a few hangovers being nursed, there was still ample time for guests to enjoy some leisure time before that evening's soiree. Many chose to visit the nearby National Memorial Arboretum, which was very fitting of the occasion as absent friends were later to be toasted at a sit-down meal for 89 guests which included our guest of honour, Col (Retd) Mark Cuthbert Brown. The evening went fantastically well with thanks in part to James Lord and his team at the Holiday Inn. Before pulling up sand bags and swinging lanterns late in to the night, a cash prize draw and charity auction were held which, together with pre-event sale of 7 Armd Bde RMP Ties (and not forgetting of course the generous bid on a bottle of Prosecco by Brendan McMahon) raised an admirable £515 for the RMP Corps Benevolent Fund. Sunday morning's departures were heart felt for many but the event was so well received that the admin team have vowed to look in to future events of the same nature, but only on the promise they can have at least a couple of months to destress and dry out first!



David Hartley came up with the following photograph which featured Opel Kapitans about which he said, 'The cars were 1952 Opel Kapitans Convertibles. Only four made, would be probably be worth a million or so if found. We had all four at Bunde for a while in the late 50s. The radios were so bad we had to transmit via the VW van. I never saw another with a split screen quite like this one. For your archives.'

I recall having shown this type of vehicle in a previous edition some time ago and it involved reuniting a reader with the vehicle he had driven, I think in Rheindahlen. So here are a couple more photographs of Opel Kapitans.





ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION

For those of you that can speak German then the 248 Guard Report link is as follows:

http://248gsu.de/index.php/der-guard-report/gp_download/send/3-guard-report/280-guard-report-juni-2017

I move to another language, which at times, when spoken by some locals is also difficult to understand, of course I refer to those in the land of OZ, who as I write are enduring their winter and we are having the sunshine. Needless to say the guys in Perth have been at it again, another lunch meeting and a whole new batch of photographs but with the old familiar faces. You have seen most of them before so here are some of them again. With the photographs was a



message to the Branch members and I would like to print the following extract as I know some of you will remember this guy from his days when he was on an exchange programme and if I recall was stationed with 160 Provost Company. *'I should mention that Gordon Parke continues to excel himself by making a long trip from Kalbarri to Perth for each of our meetings. Gordon had relocated to Kalbarri some time ago and keeps himself busy by volunteer work, both as an ambulance driver and in the local men's shed'*





The final photograph from Perth did have me wondering just a little. Being a pillar of political correctness I refrain from any comment but I can invite you the reader to have your say. No prizes for the winner.

CAN YOU HELP

The following request was received at RHQ from former Lance-Corporal Keith Gray. 'I am trying to get information of a L/cpl John (Jack) Wood. He served in the 50s/60s and was stationed in Berlin Provost Company. In the late 50s he did "P" Company Para course and moved to 16 Para Provost Company, then in Farnborough Hants.

The reason I am researching is because Jack now lives in Ocala Florida and is suffering from Dementia. He and his wife visited the UK recently to meet family I met up with them, she asked me to try to put together some sort of history of Jack. I was with the RMP from 1960/1963 having been called up for National Service and posted to 158 Provost Company, Aldershot. I enlisted for an extra year and took the "P" Company course, passed and was posted to Para Provost where I met Jack, and have been in touch on and off since. As far as I know he left RMP and went into Civvy Street and a couple of years later re-enlisted in the Parachute Regiment where he served overseas, the Middle East I think and came back to the Para Depot and became an Instructor.' *Ed: I am aware that the Regimental secretary has given Keith relevant information for the family to follow up. If any of you can provide information please let me know and I will pass it onto Keith.*

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

David Littlemore sent in the following information regarding the Cyprus Memorial Service. "Dear Cyprus Colleagues. This year's Cyprus Memorial Service will, as you know, be a smaller event than last year's Unveiling Ceremony for reasons we all understand. We will have a local Chaplain the Rev. Maj. Vic Van Den Bergh. We will be using the NMA's public catering areas to have refreshments and meet our colleagues after the service. The service will have one chaplain performing the service that covers the remembrance of both the military and civilian police lost during the Cyprus Emergency. I look forward to seeing you at the NMA on the 21st of August commencing at 1045 hours." *Ed: I think it is necessary for me to point out that this is not the organisation known as the Royal Military Police Cyprus Veteran's Group*

Mike Sangster, Northern Ireland Veterans Association wishes to inform you that this year's Service of Remembrance is due to be held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas on Saturday, the 16th September 2017 commencing at 1130 hours. For further information please visit the website at: www.nivets.org.uk <<http://www.nivets.org.uk>

-ooOoo-

Some of you will be thinking that I have forgotten the usual Provost company/unit article. At the time of writing I could not find anything that related to company unit that had the number 121.

DEATHS

HASKINGSON

I received information that John Haskingson died on the 29th April 2017. It is understood that John, who trained in Squad 419 in 1954 went on to serve with 3 Infantry Division Provost Company in Egypt and later in Dover. Sadly I do not have any further information about him.

OSBOURNE

The following message was received from the Colchester and Essex Branch. 'The Chairman regrets to inform you that an ex member of the Branch passed away on the 8th June 2017. Mr Ray Osbourne

was a member for many years. Ray passed away peacefully in his sleep. Ray was a great supporter of the Branch and it was only due to his age and being unable to drive that prevented him from attending the meetings.'

Compiled by Bob Egelton

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