



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



#1 MAY 2018

Dear colleague,

For some time I have been toying with the idea of having a separate newsletter for the Association and I think the time is right now that I have taken over as Chair of the Association. I hope that in doing this it will allow articles, news and photographs relating to the Association to be featured without undue restrictions.

One reason for starting this newsletter is that I know it will reach many members who are not affiliated to or members of a particular branch. Hopefully they can keep in touch with what is happening, it may even encourage them to join a branch. Information to branches will continue to be sent to branch secretaries for dissemination.

Speaking of branches the Association would like more branches established. They could be what is commonly known as "Virtual" branches, such as the SIB Branch who meet once a year but keep in touch by other means. So what about a Close Protection Branch or indeed a RMP Bikers Branch? What about those of you residing in other countries, such as France, Germany and Spain - if North America can have a branch then so can you.

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Just prior to the Annual Reunion I had the occasion to visit Cheshire and North Wales Branch and enjoy an afternoon cream tea at the Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, which is the venue for next year's reunion. Following a tour of the hotel we were forced to devour a diabetic's nightmare.

As a form of mild and delightful distraction of the cream and calories members of 174 Provost Company gave a presentation which brought the retired generation up to speed with what the serving generation are doing. Personally I found it very informative and serves as a way of bringing the two extremes together with of course the expected banter which will always prevail. My thanks to Major Rachel Brunt, OC 3 Div 174 Pro Coy RMP, Captain Lee Sumner (best of luck on

the posting Lee) and of course the man who did all the work (so he told me), Corporal Kris Scofield. Thank you once again for taking the time and effort. By the way Kris, did you and the others enjoy the doggie bag of scones? The photograph above shows, Lee Sumner, George Woodall, Rachel Brunt, Kris Scofield and me. (Don't ask what happened to my jacket).

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ANNUAL REUNION 2018

The reunion took the normal format with members assembling on the Friday and on the Saturday morning. The Friday arrivals had the customary inclusive meal which of course led to the swinging of the lamps and “do you remember when ...” which is the essence of such reunions. New faces were seen and to those a welcome is extended, hope to see you next year. The Saturday was the normal Annual General Meeting followed by the dinner in the evening.

Two photographs taken during the dinner have reached me and they feature firstly Mrs Jenny Owens and Arthur Galletly and secondly John MacLennan and Ian Martin, all members of Cheshire and North Wales Branch



On the Sunday morning after yet another full English it was time to attend the service which this year was held in the hotel and conducted by our new Padre Mark Christian. All was going well until about 1150 hrs when the fire alarm sounded. On the makeshift altar were two small candles flickering away as they do, well I have never seen two candles blown out so quickly; good reaction time by the Padre and Stewart Leach. Without going into too much detail the aging group did make it to the Assembly Point but for a few it was a trial. It transpired that it was not the fault of the candles but that one of the staff had broken activated a call point. Normal service (no pun intended) was resumed as soon as possible.

Following the service we all made our way outside, again, and conforming to tradition there was a March Past with the salute being taken by Brigadier Ray Bell MBE who deputised for the Provost Marshal who had to leave to attend a further engagement.

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My thanks to Glynis Harrison for letting me have a number of photographs, some shown below, and a video. The latter caused me great concern as I noticed that my left arm was not completely straight when marching. I know, I have told a number of you enough times in the past, press down with the thumb! Time to take my own advice.



South Yorkshire Branch must be congratulated on organising a successful reunion. The weekend saw the retirement of three stalwarts of the Association. Firstly Lt Col John Baber who resigned as Chair after many years as Secretary and Treasurer (when he was Regimental Secretary) and as Chair for the past five years. Another familiar face to depart is Maj Allan Barley who seems to have been NEC for decades, his dulcet Yorkshire accent will be missed. Last but no means least John Gormley who has been the Parade Marshal for many years finally hung up his pace-stick.

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Earlier in the month the Association was alerted to the news that Honorary President Maj Gen Ben Bathurst CBE has been awarded the United States of America Legion of Merit in the Degree of Officer. The Secretary will be sending a congratulatory message to him on behalf of the membership.

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The Association is a civilian Charity and the Trustees, of which there are now ten, are responsible for seeing that the Association is run correctly and complies fully with the Charity Commission's rules and regulations. The Trustees are myself (Chair), Bob Potts (Vice Chair), Stewart Leach MBE (Secretary), Ron Campbell-Smith (Treasurer), Lt Col (Retd) Mal Grainger (Wales), Alex Menmuir (Scotland), Graeme Woodcock (Northern Ireland), Lt Col (Retd) Alan Murray MBE, Allan Adam, Lt Col Mark John (Serving Representative). Joy Eggelton will continue for the foreseeable future as Administrative Secretary.

The past year has seen significant changes in the Association which now makes it fit for purpose in this modern day and age. There is still a great deal to be achieved and one of the major priorities is to try and establish a more accurate list of all current members; details about this will be circulated.

The Association must also take a look at its income. Expenditure has been minimised and a number of savings made but it still costs a considerable amount to run such an organisation. If you have suggestions then please let them be known, the Trustees will listen to your views. Remember it is your Association and as I said before, "use it or lose it".

It would be totally neglectful, and disrespectful of me, not to acknowledge the tireless efforts of those who keep the branches running. I am more than aware that some branches are struggling but hang on in there. It is a pleasure to see that Cyprus Branch is rising from the ashes thanks to good co-operation with the Service Police Unit on the Island.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday the 2nd June 2018 is the Royal Military Police Annual Church Service, Parade and Act of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum. Assemble at 1100 hours.

Saturday 30th June 2018, Armed Forces Day - UK wide.

Thursday 8th November 2018, opening of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.
Commencing at 1030 hrs.

Saturday 10th November 2018 Provost (RMP/MPS) Field of remembrance Service, Westminster Abbey commencing at 1050 hrs.

Sunday 11th November Royal British Legion Cenotaph Parade.

North American Branch 16th Annual Reunion - 5th to 9th September, St. Johns, Newfoundland.

10th - 12th May 2019 Annual Reunion at Stretton, near Warrington hosted by Cheshire and North Wales branch.

If your branch has an activity which you would like publicised then let me know, but let me know in good time.

If you require further details please contact me via e-mail or telephone 02392 265645

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