



**ROYAL MILITARY POLICE
OLD COMRADES LINK UP
NEWSLETTER #127 JANUARY 2018**



NEW CONTACTS



DAVIES

Former 23806153 Warrant Officer Class 1 Kenneth Davies. Ken originally trained in Squad 806 and went on to serve with 1 (Br) Corps Provost Company with attachment to 20 Armoured Brigade and 11 Infantry Brigade provost unit. He later served with 42 Division Provost Company, 126 infantry Brigade Provost Company, 1 (Br) Corps Provost Signals Company, 116 Provost Company and CVHQ 2 Reserve Company.

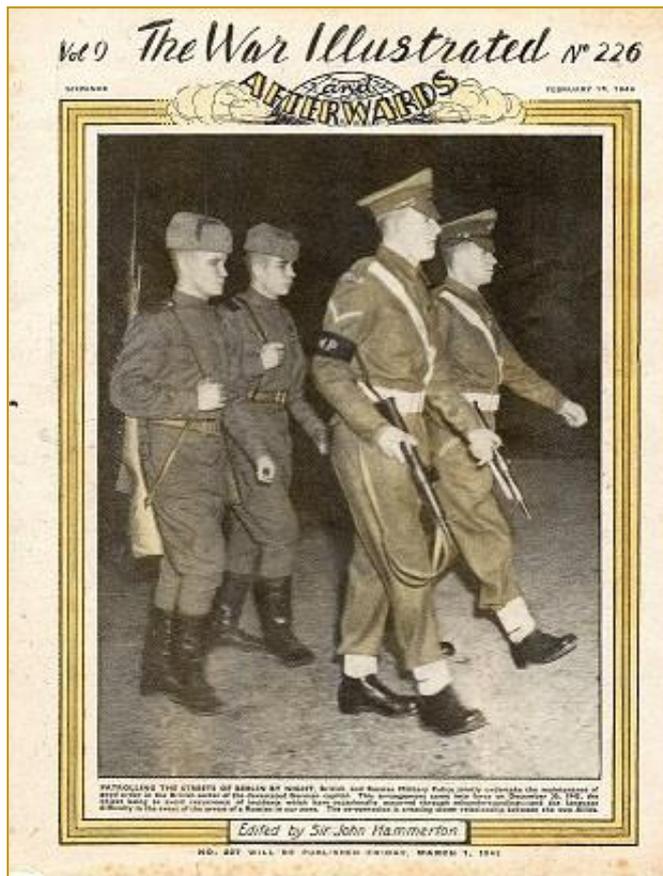
LUDKIN

Former 22813095 Corporal Ken 'Lobby' Ludkin. Squad 312, June 1952. Enlisted as short term Regular Soldier. Served in 200 (Singapore) Provost Company RMP. Then went to Hong Kong to join the 27th Infantry Brigade, 40th Division stationed on the Chinese Border at Fanling, New Territories. During his tour he was selected to join Royal Navy goodwill tour to the Philippines aboard HMS Opossum, a frigate where they were guests of the American 7th Fleet at Stanley Point, Manila. Ken was demobbed in 1955.

PREECE (nee WATT)

Former W/425949 Lance Corporal Marilyn Preece. Marilyn undertook basic training at Guildford Barracks in June 1965 until September of that year and then went on to Provost training at Kensington Barracks with a driving course taken at Roussillon Barracks. She remained at Kensington Barracks until September 1966 when she was posted to Malta. Marilyn was discharged in October 1967.

YOUR CORRESPONDENCE



Over the Christmas period I heard from Fred Elrod who sent in a copy of the front page of "The War Illustrated". The caption reads, "Patrolling the streets of Berlin by night, British and Russian Military Police jointly undertake the maintenance of good order in the British sector of the devastated German capital. This arrangement came into force on December 30, 1945, the object being to avoid recurrence of incidents which have occasionally occurred through misunderstandings – and the language difficulty in the event of the arrest of a Russian in our zone. The co-operation is creating closer relationship between the two Allies." The magazine was edited by Sir John Hammerton. Sir John Alexander Hammerton was born on the 27th February 1871 in Alexandria, Scotland and died on the 12th May 1949 in London. He has been described as "the most successful creator of large-scale works of reference that Britain has known".

Over the Christmas period I decided that it was time for a radical clear out which resulted in the re-cycle bin being full way before its collection day and also the charity



shops getting a few more items which hopefully swell their coffers. One thing that jumped out of the chaos and took me back to 1961 was a photograph of the troopship *Oxfordshire*, the ship that had transported me to Gibraltar on my very first posting. The photograph must have been taken by Joy's father and I feel sure the location is Southampton Docks. She saw service as a troopship from 1957 until her last voyage in 1962. She left Malta on the 13th December 1962, so unless I was on leave, I must have seen her arrive for the last time

in Gibraltar. The photograph below shows the old lady in colour and was taken in Aden in 1962. I guess this must have been my first cruise but I prefer the modern day ships I cruise with.



-ooOoo-

Phil Locke forward two photographs which were taken during the Provost Marshal's Inspection in Berlin on the 15th June 1959. The photographs were passed to Phil by the widow of the late Ralph Lewis. I have selected the better of the two. I may be able to have a "Spot the weights" competition.





The above painting was commissioned by the Corps and is to be entitled *"Another Hot Day in Nicosia"* and shows Lance-Corporal Keeling (227 Provost Company) assisting a Turkish Cypriot policeman during a riot in 1957. The Royal Military Police played a full role countering the EOKA insurgency in Cyprus (1955-59) which was aimed at ending British rule and unification with Greece. This came at a price with Royal Military Police casualties, higher than those of any other Arm, proportionate to its strength.

I would be more than interested to hear from those of you that were there. Having attended previous RMP Cyprus Veterans reunions I am more than aware of the depth of feeling amongst those who were there at the time.

-ooOoo-

In the last edition I appealed for any information on Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) Leslie Crossley who died on the 15th June 1966. Dennis Hardman was able to provide some further information which has been passed onto the Leslie's daughter. He said, 'Dear Bob, I accidentally came across Newsletter 126, December 2017 while surfing the internet for 101 (ARMY) Pro Coy RMP Dusseldorf or No 4 Sect Dortmund. I noted that the daughter of RSM Crossley was making enquiries about him. I do not remember much about him except he was well liked and respected by all ranks. I was a LCpl at the time, not been there long (Squad 66). I did attend his funeral at Rhinedahlen Garrison Cemetery. Stuck in my mind that a fellow NCO who had been there a little longer than me





was in tears all the way there. I did take a couple of pictures which went in my Album. I have scanned and attached them.'

ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION

I have a number of reunions and event to remind you of. Firstly is the Association's 72nd Annual Reunion which this year is being held over the weekend of the 11th, 12th and 13th May in the City of Rotherham. You are reminded that tickets for the dinner have to be obtained from the NEC, Allan Barley and you are responsible for booking your own accommodation. The reunion is open to all members of the Association and you do not have to be a member of a branch to attend. If you require further information then please contact me or your branch secretary. Late information from West Yorkshire Branch. The Postcode given in the original instruction is incorrect,



should read S60 2XL. Upon arrival please ensure you key in your vehicle registration number at the reception point.

-ooOoo-

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Military Police Association will take place on Saturday the 12th May 2018 in the Sebastian Coe Suite, Holiday Inn, West Bawtry Road, Rotherham S60 2XL. You are reminded that if you are a member of the Association you are eligible to attend.

-ooOoo-

Next up is the Special Investigation Branch 10th annual dinner which is being held on Saturday the 21st April 2018 at the Holiday Inn, Walsall. Once again if you want further details please contact Bob Wilmshurst at robertwilmshurst@googlemail.com or through me.

-ooOoo-

The North American Branch are now seriously considering St John's, Newfoundland as the location for this year's reunion. To ensure that the event is viable and the best rates can be achieved they are asking all interested members of the Association to contact them. I can assure you that the events in North America are well run and you will not be disappointed. Please contact Derek McCorquindale at mccord@shaw.ca for further information.

-ooOoo-

Last but by no means least, is the West Yorkshire Branch who are holding an Annual Dinner Night on Saturday the 7th April 2018 at The Guide Post Hotel, Bradford. For further information please contact David Paynter at paynter56@msn.com or through me.

CAN YOU HELP

Janet Burrows is seeking information on a Pam Doubleday, the former wife of the late Maurice Cole. Apparently Pam married Charlie Doubleday. Pam and Maurice had two children, Gary and Debbie and were known to be residing at Eakring Road, Bilsthorpe, Nr Newark in 1970. Janet is Gary's godmother. So, if anyone can throw a light on this request then please let me know.

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

Calling all former members of 200 (Singapore) Provost Company. Alan Trumper has arrange for two or three tables to be reserved at the RMP Association Annual Reunion in May for former members of the company. Anyone wishing to be included must:

1. Purchase a ticket for the dinner from Allan Barley
2. Make any hotel accommodation booking as appropriate.
3. Inform Alan Trumper (01384 236769) if they want to sit on the reserved tables in order that the seating plan can be instigated

DEATHS



COLE

Former 23356418 Staff Sergeant Derek Cole passed away on Sunday the 21st January 2018. Derek first joined the Corps in 1956 as a National Serviceman. Following his demob two years later he joined the City of Portsmouth Police. He re-enlisted in 1964 and went on to serve in a variety of units throughout the world until 1984. Derek, a quiet, unassuming person will be remembered as one of the Corps best footballers from his era. Derek was a member of Depot Branch and also worked as a Volunteer at the Corps

Museum. Derek's funeral took place on the 29th January where members of Depot Branch formed a Guard of Honour.

GIBBENS

The following information was posted on the RMP Gone but not Forgotten website by Tony Pearson. "I am the bearer of bad news and am so very sad to tell you that my dear friend RMP Veteran Les Gibbins has tonight passed away."



JONES

Former 24895658 Corporal Jack Ralph James (aged 91 years) passed away in the Royal and Exeter Hospital on Tuesday the 16th January 2018. Jack served from 1944 until 1949 in the United Kingdom, India and in Greece. He was a very active member of Taunton Branch.

MALT

Richard Malt passed away on the 12th December 2017.

MIDDLEDITCH

Former 5832179 Lance-Corporal William H Middleditch passed away aged 97 on December 28th. Enlisting in the Suffolk Regiment, serving with the 7th Battalion, he transferred to the Corps of Military Police, serving in North Africa and Italy with 10 and then 8 Traffic Control Companies CMP respectively from January 1943 until April 1944. After serving with 1 TC Company CMP until September 1945, he was transferred to 434 Vulnerable Points (VP) Company CMP in the UK, donning the VP Police Oxford-blue cap cover for his Service Dress forage cap, until his discharge in January 1946. When riding a motorcycle during his active service in Italy he was injured by a



'strangling' wire stretched across a bridge with the sole aim of killing or maiming a passing allied motorcyclist. As a result, he was placed on a Hospital Ship, which was then bombed in the harbour. In consequence, his journey home took some 7 days with a stop-over in Gibraltar. Following his recovery to full-health his duties with 434 VP Company included guarding a key fuel installation in London; escorting military convoys to the south of England ports for D-Day; and guarding German Prisoners of War detained in Northern Ireland.

RAMAGE

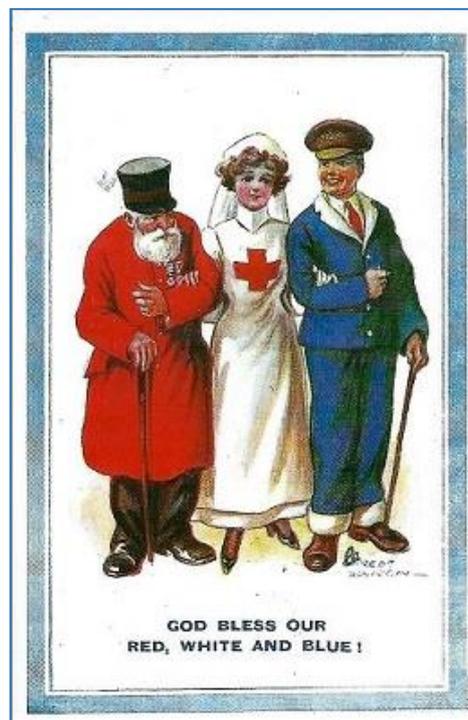
The following information was posted on the RMP Gone but not Forgotten website by Mitch Hirst. "I regret to inform members that I have just been informed by his daughter that Stewart Ramage has passed away overnight. Sleep tight old friend RIP."

WATERS

The following information was posted on RMP Gone but not Forgotten website by John Bradley. "I regret to inform you that Steve Waters passed away at 11.00am on Tuesday 2 January following a brief illness. He was surrounded by his family. He leaves a wife Yvonne and two children. Steve left the Corps about 1990 and went straight to Canary Wharf Security. His family, friends and colleagues are devastated to say the least. I did not know Steve very well so cannot tell you much more at this time. Steve was 52 years old and I believe he would have been in the Corps about six or seven years. Rest in peace."

-ooOoo-

Another month has passed and Christmas is long since forgotten. Once again I must point out that I did not forget 127 Provost Company (or any unit bearing that number) it is simply that I have not been able to discover any reference to such a unit. Thought I would just conclude with this postcard which was one of a series produced to commemorate nurses in the Armed Forces. Now I seem to remember that in my day if you were a patient in a Military Hospital you wore a white shirt and red tie with your normal uniform (it would have been Battle Dress) as depicted in the photograph. I think the custom was discontinued early 1960s.



02392 265645
07913 997233
joybob@btinternet.com
Skype: pompeybob65

