



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE OLD COMRADES LINK UP NEWSLETTER #132 JUNE 2018



NEW CONTACTS



ELLIOTT

Former 23971995 Sergeant David Elliott, Squad 40A. David served with the Corps from 1964 until 1986 in the following units; Tripoli Provost Company, Cyrenaica Provost Company, AFCENT, 102 Provost Company, 114 Provost Company, 180 Provost Company, London District Provost Company, RMPTC, 110 Provost Company and 156 Provost Company.

YOUR CORRESPONDENCE



I received an e-mail which accompanied the above photograph which just said, "Bob. Jill and I are having a lovely day." That was from Andrew and Jill Mellor.

Mary and Steve Haskins also attended Founder's Day and the following message was received from them, 'My wife Mary and I had a lovely day. The weather was perfect. Mary had met Bimbo a couple of times whilst serving in the early 70s so was delighted that we managed to locate her, both before when she was dressed up, and afterwards when dressed down. A couple of photos attached by way of proof. Bimbo also knows Mary's younger sister well (Sue Johnson), who sadly is not too well. Once more, thanks for helping to enable me to attend such an iconic event. Great. Did not see any of the RMP in-pensioners however.' *Ed: See photographs below. I am sure there were some RMP Pensioners there somewhere, trouble is they all look the same from a distance. Pleased to hear that those who attended and those taking part had a great day.*



-ooOoo-

My next communiqué arrived from Mike Seabourne who I had the pleasure of catching up with at the National Memorial Arboretum on the 2nd June. He said, 'Good to see you on Saturday, it as a very good turnout. The two attached photographs, then and now; the first in June 1958 taken in Majdie Barracks Johor Bahru, Malaya and the second 60 years later in June 2018 at the Gurkha Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. The unofficial 'Bonniface cap badge' and other dress insignia was designed by the OC of 17 Gurkha Div Pro Coy GMP one Major B Bonniface TD, in 1956/7. It was produced locally and worn by all members of the unit; however, it



was never approved and sometime late in 1958 everyone had to revert to the normal RMP cap badge and other insignia. See RMP Journal Second Quarter 1957, for the details of GMP dress at that time. The Official Gurkha Military Police Badge was finally approved by the War Office Dress Committee in August 1958 but it was some time before the new badges were introduced into service. Details of the new badge were shown in the letters column of the RMP Journal



in either the Third or Fourth Quarter issue; the letter concludes 'Article on Gurkha dress in Journal for second quarter 1957 was premature and incorrect and should be disregarded. The letter was signed by A.J.P. Richie Colonel Provost Marshal Far East Land Forces. I believe Major Boniface was censured regarding this matter. There was an article in the Journal First Quarter 1965 detailing the disbandment of GMP together with a brief history of Gurkha soldiers serving as Military Police.

Mick Cook wanted to say a few words about the late Bill Grant. 'Thanks for Newsletter 131. I was sorry to hear of the passing of William (Bill) Grant. We served together for a short while at 6 Bde, Barnard Castle and I bumped into him again when playing football for a team in an 'Anglo-German' league (early 1970's). I think Bill was serving in the Rheindahlen area, perhaps 101 Provost Company. However, my reason for writing is that we knew 'Bill' as 'Ernest' and his photo explains why - 'Ernest Hemmingway' look alike and many of his traits too, don't know if Bill ever published 'his' book but it would have been a really good read! RIP Bill and thanks for the memories.'

-ooOoo-



Now this photograph is a month overdue for which I have to accept full responsibility. Kevin Morson sent it in and it was taken during a reunion in Dusseldorf of those who served in 101 Provost Company circa 1974 -1976 under RSM Roy Bishop. L to R, Ewen Rennie, Duncan Trett, John Cameron Webb, Tom Bennett, Dave Davies, Jack Duncan and son in law, Kevin Morson, Roy Brown, Les Hamon

-ooOoo-

In a recent edition I published the photograph on the right and the person who sent it said that one of those featured was a Mick Young, well in fact it was Mick Rodgers and this time it was not my fault, was it John?

-ooOoo-



Arthur Elliott has been in touch with me again and has sent in a number of articles which he had published in a local newsletter some years ago. I can totally empathise with the first of these articles which is called *Desert Island Discs*.

"Listening to Desert Island Discs I wondered what music I would associate with my past military service. I selected the following:-

My number one would certainly be 'Moonlight Serenade' by Glen Miller. This is a record I could listen to over and over again, and often did. My second would



be Mario Lanza's recording of the 'Lord's Prayer' which I always found very soothing and inspirational in times of stress or difficulty. My third is Peewee Hunt's '12th Street Rag'.



Whilst on a 6 month tour of the UK after duty abroad, I was stationed for some time on detachment at Colchester. We occupied some buildings within 156 Pro Coy but lunch time meals were taken in the Naafi. Whenever I entered the Naafi they seemed to have that recording sometime during the meal. My fourth record would be 'Sentimental Journey' by Doris Day. This reminds me of our journey on leaving India from Madras on the troopship 'Ascanius'. Incidentally, it is believed to be the only ship to leave Madras harbour at full speed that is how slow she was! Sometime later a launch overtook us and transferred Jean Metcalf on board. We had music at intervals over the tannoy and the signature tune was 'Sentimental journey'. The fifth record, to beat any boredom, would be Bob Newhart's 'The Driving Instructor'. I defy anyone not to laugh at that monologue. My sixth record would be 'Concerto for Trumpet by Harry James. This reminds me of detachment from HQ at Athens and was very popular at the time. Seventh would be the Andrew Sisters singing 'Rum and Coca Cola'. This was a good old forces sing along. It also reminded me of the cinema near the transit camp on the opposite bank of the Suez Canal from Port Said. It was an open air cinema with a balcony upon which tables and chairs were set out where liquid refreshments could be taken whilst watching the film. My final record would be Jane Forman singing 'I'll Never Walk Alone'. She was an entertainer for the American forces with a very appealing voice. I don't think anyone else could come anywhere near her rendition of that song. If I could take only one of these records to a desert island it would be of course 'Moonlight Serenade'. It is a tune I've always want to conduct and it is difficult to keep my hands and arms still when I hear it. On a desert island I would be able to bounce around and conduct to my heart's content" Ed: I have added a few faces with the exception of Jean Metcalf. Typing this up certainly brought back memories and I recall certain songs from early days in the Corps. So, what would be your Desert Island Discs? Let me know. The younger generation may wish to look up the word 'record'.



Seventh would be the Andrew Sisters singing 'Rum and Coca Cola'. This was a good old forces sing along. It also reminded me of the cinema near the transit camp on the opposite bank of the Suez Canal from Port Said. It was an open air cinema with a balcony upon which tables and chairs were set out where liquid refreshments could be taken whilst watching the film. My final record would be Jane Forman singing 'I'll Never Walk Alone'. She was an entertainer for the American forces with a very appealing voice. I don't think anyone else could come anywhere near her rendition of that song. If I could take only one of these records to a desert island it would be of course 'Moonlight Serenade'. It is a tune I've always want to conduct and it is difficult to keep my hands and arms still when I hear it. On a desert island I would be able to bounce around and conduct to my heart's content" Ed: I have added a few faces with the exception of Jean Metcalf. Typing this up certainly brought back memories and I recall certain songs from early days in the Corps. So, what would be your Desert Island Discs? Let me know. The younger generation may wish to look up the word 'record'.



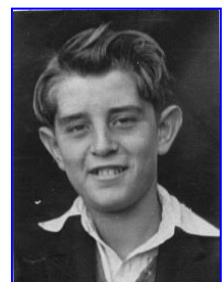
Seventh would be the Andrew Sisters singing 'Rum and Coca Cola'. This was a good old forces sing along. It also reminded me of the cinema near the transit camp on the opposite bank of the Suez Canal from Port Said. It was an open air cinema with a balcony upon which tables and chairs were set out where liquid refreshments could be taken whilst watching the film. My final record would be Jane Forman singing 'I'll Never Walk Alone'. She was an entertainer for the American forces with a very appealing voice. I don't think anyone else could come anywhere near her rendition of that song. If I could take only one of these records to a desert island it would be of course 'Moonlight Serenade'. It is a tune I've always want to conduct and it is difficult to keep my hands and arms still when I hear it. On a desert island I would be able to bounce around and conduct to my heart's content" Ed: I have added a few faces with the exception of Jean Metcalf. Typing this up certainly brought back memories and I recall certain songs from early days in the Corps. So, what would be your Desert Island Discs? Let me know. The younger generation may wish to look up the word 'record'.



So, what would be your Desert Island Discs? Let me know. The younger generation may wish to look up the word 'record'.

-ooOoo-

Once upon a time there lived a young boy who was Welsh and his name was Haydn Davies. One day his father said if you are good I will take you to see the searchlight tattoo in Cardiff Castle. Haydn made sure that he was good and the day came to travel to Cardiff by train. We arrived at Queen Street station and then had to walk to the Castle. When reached the gates I saw two soldiers with red hats, white belts and white things sticking out of the bottom of their trousers. I asked my dad what regiment they belonged too and he said they were policemen looking after the soldiers. I asked my dad if I could go and talk to them but he said that they were on duty looking for soldiers making trouble or on bad behaviour. I



then said to my dad that when I grew up I was going to be one of those. The years went by and then one day in 1955 a brown envelope came through the door marked War Office, it was my call up papers for National Service I reminded my dad that I was going to be a redcap. He said the first thing was to pass my medical and he thought I could ask to go to the Military Police. He added that he thought I would have to do a longer time than just 2 years. I had my medical in a building in Cardiff; I had never ever seen so many naked boys going from room to room and I thought there was a coughing epidemic about but I soon found out why. Then I was told that I had passed A1 so I said that I wanted to be a Redcap the officer said that I could be a direct entrant but would have to sign on for 22 years with a 3 year option so that's what I did. I then had to wait from June in 1955 until 4th January 1956 for the next intake I met a chap in Cardiff who was going to the same place Inkerman Barracks Woking Surrey. I had never been outside of Wales before then. So I met my mate Dexter Moffat, sadly no longer with us, but we went in as boys and 20 weeks later came out as men. My dream of becoming a fully-fledged Redcap was fulfilled.



132 PROVOST COMPANY CMP

At this stage all I can ascertain is that after the surrender of the Japanese, IV Corps was located at Rangoon. On the 29th September 1945 the Corps HQ was disbanded and its Provost Unit was re-designated 132 (L of C) Provost Unit

CAN YOU HELP

Call for help from RHQ RMP. Does anyone know the whereabouts of 24622590/ 24522590 (not sure of the 3rd digit) KA Davies (possibly CPL). I have someone in Manchester who possibly has his GSM and would like to return it to him. The last known address for him that is held at RHQ is c/o British Legion Club, Tenby, Dyfed. If you can assist either contact me or RHQ RMP.

Bill England contacted me and said, 'I am trying to find out the whereabouts of the following ex RMP NCO's:

1. Sgt Mick Cross who was our squad training Sergeant at Chichester in 1972.
2. Bill (Jock) Brydon who served with us in Aldershot (1973) then Aldergrove in (1974) after which he came out and was in the Police in Welwyn Garden City.
3. Eddie Harris who served with me in Aldershot (1973), Aldergrove (1974) & Bielefeld in (1975) who came out and was in the Police in Kent.
4. Keith Shaw who I last heard of when we went through training centre in Chichester in 1972.'

If you can assist in this matter please contact me.

Message from Kevin Morson. 'I am currently organising a trip to Londonderry next March to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the murder of Sgt Dave Ross. We did it on the 30th anniversary and this time apart from Julian Lee all of the SIB Det are attending, would it be possible to ask on your excellent newsletter if anyone knows his whereabouts so we can offer him the opportunity to join us. He left the Corp in the eighties and seems to have lost all contact with SIB circles. *Ed: If anyone has information about Julian please let me know.*

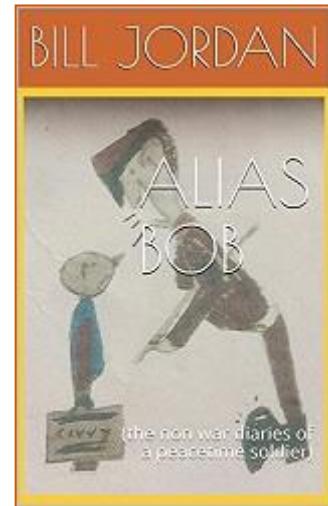
NOTICES AND INFORMATION

Northern Ireland Veterans' Association (NIVA)

This year's NIVA's Service of Remembrance and Parade is to be held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire commencing at 11.00am, Saturday 8th September 2018. If you require any further information please contact me.

The steely-eyed warriors from the sky will be landing at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire on the 22nd and 23rd September 2018. I hope that further details about the Para Provost will be forthcoming and if they do not arrive you can all blame Ben Turpin.

Bill Jordan said, 'Would it be possible to give my book a mention in the next newsletter. It's currently available on Kindle and covers the first part of my RMP service from Chichester to NI to London then HQ NORTHAG. I've made a start on volume 2 which will cover the rest of my service but if it takes as long as volume 1 then it will ten years before I finish it mind you I'm now a gentleman of leisure so it could be a lot less.



Having spent 22 years with RMP and 5 years CVHQ I held an abundance of anecdotes, some funny, some not that I always said I would commit them to my memoirs when I got around to writing them. Around 2007 I had this urge to start writing so I got myself a small notebook and divided a number of pages to cover my postings. I carried the notebook with me and every time I thought of an interesting story I wrote a brief synopsis under that posting. I always had a good memory (not so good as I get older) and could remember names and details long forgotten by most people. Once the notebook was pretty much full I set myself a target of 70,000 words.

Post service I was employed as a regional security manager with Shop Direct Group covering a large area which required many nights away from home in hotels and it was during these periods that the book started to take shape. Where did the title come from? I have an older brother, funny enough called Bob and as children people often got our names mixed up, nothing unusual in that but it stayed with me throughout my army service and beyond so it seemed fitting to call my memoirs 'Alias Bob'.

DEATHS

BROOKS

The following information was received from Tony Bowdler, RMP Malaya Veterans Group. 'It is with great sadness I report the death of Malaya Veteran Keith Brooks. Keith passed away after a short but serious heart related illness on 18 April 2018 at Milnerton Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa. Keith trained at Inkerman in 101 Squad and served in 17 Gurkha Div Pro Coy, 1951-1953. He leaves behind his devoted wife Annette, relations and friends. Anyone who served with or knew Keith and wishes to contact the family please contact me (Tony Bowdler, 01905 775174) as his wife has given me permission to release relevant information.'

CULLEN

Information was received from Peter Diplock to the effect that former Staff-Sergeant John Cullen passed away on the 27th April 2018. John certainly served in Osnabruck in the 70s and it is believed he served in Singapore and Northern Ireland.

HOUGHTON

Former 22463967 Sergeant Leslie Houghton passed away on the 28th March 2018 aged 88 years. Leslie served from 1951 to 1956 and was with the SIB from 1952. He served in Western Command, Chester and with 70 Section SIB Celle.

THOMPSON

Former 22021256 Corporal John Thompson passed away on the 14th June 2018 at a residential care home near Weston-Super-Mare. John served with the Corps from 1949 until 1953 with 166, 160, 40 Division and 152 Provost companies. It was whilst in Hong Kong that he met his wife Doreen a member of the WRAC. John was a founding member of Taunton Branch RMPA having before that been with Bristol and Gloucester Branches. On leaving the Army John joined the civilian Police with whom he had a long career.

Compiled by Bob Eggelton
02392 265645
07913 997233
joybob@btinternet.com