



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE
OLD COMRADES LINK UP
NEWSLETTER #134 AUGUST 2018



NEW CONTACTS



BROWN

Former 24156230 Michael Brown, Squad 130. Mike served from 1969 to 1992 with 165, 174 (NI), 3 Div provost companies, 16 Parachute Brigade Provost Unit and SHAPE Provost Company, transferring to the Intelligence Corps in 1977 from where he retired in the rank of Captain.

MORRIS

I received the following message from former 23200655 Lance-Corporal Michael Morris. "I recently stumbled across the 2017 newsletter and read a submission from Roy Egton who I remember from 433 squad. In 1954 expecting to be called up for National Service I realised that at 6ft 1in I would finish up at the Caterham Guards Depot just 5 miles from home, a prospect which horrified me. I joined the RMP as a regular (22 years with a three year option). When I returned to work that day a work colleague decided to follow suit. We finished up with consecutive army numbers and both of us in 433 squad, he was 23200656 Ian Jaques. We both served in Egypt for a year and we're both posted to Cyprus. He went to 227 Provost Company in Famagusta and I to the newly formed Escort and Bodyguard Section for General Sir Charles Keighley the Commander in Chief, Middle East Land Forces who later served as Supreme Allied Commander Allied Forces during the Suez crisis while I was still with him. As I am now 82 it is probably a bit late to contact army pals." As I pointed out to Michael, it is never too late to get back in touch and I hope by now that he and Roy are communicating. Michael would like any news on Brian Flook and Peter Webb.

SPARKES

I was informed by RHQ that former 19055053 Corporal Kenneth Sparkes, 942 Squad (1947) had been in contact and was feeling somewhat lonely following a move by him and his wife to a residential complex in Macclesfield. Ken, a spritely 90 year old looks after himself in an apartment. His wife is in the same complex but requires care. I am in touch with Ken and the RMP Association Manchester Branch have also reacted. So, if you know Ken or would just like to fend off any loneliness please let me know and I will put you in touch. Since the receipt of initial information I am pleased to say that Ken has been visited by Bernie Walsh (Manchester Branch) and now we understand that Ken was an Army Boxing Team member and also a PTI. His boxing career was blighted by a serious knee injury but he continued to train others, including a certain Sergeant Don Scott. Don took part in the 1948 Olympic Games in London, representing Great Britain and won the Silver Medal at light-heavyweight. He later competed in the 1950 British Empire Games in New Zealand (forerunner of the Commonwealth Games), where he won the gold medal at the same weight. Ken was able to trace Don after some 63 years and their reunion was recorded in an article by the local Macclesfield newspaper, with photos.



WILKINS

Former 24553304 Corporal Jeremy Wilkins, Squad 8013. Jerry served from January 1980 until January 1992 with 114 Provost Company (Minden Detachment), 115 Provost Company, 156 Provost Company, 175 Provost Company, WIS(S), RMP Cyprus (Dhekalia Detachment) and 174 Provost Company (including Op Granby).

YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

The reported death of Vic Parker resulted in a number of messages relating to the officer's time at the Depot and Training Establishment. Eric Bradbury said, 'Your obituary for Captain Parker reminded me of an incident during training with 333a squad at Woking Barracks in late 1953, as you will probably be aware there used to be a regular general inspection parade, on one occasion I was Awarded Best Man on Parade for which I was given a 48 hour pass. A few days later we had a GOCs parade which lasted quite a while where we were stood at ease (but not easy!). During this I remember changing my weight from my right foot to my left foot with very little movement. After the parade our squad sergeant told me that Capt Parker (who was a lieutenant at the time) was putting me on a charge for being idle on parade and that as a result I would not get my 48 hr pass, but he said he would go and talk to him. The result was he let me off!!

Capt Parker was our weapons instructor and I clearly remember him demonstrate pistol-shooting on the 50? yard range where using a Smith and Wesson Revolver he put 6 out of 6 shots through an empty 7lb jam tin at 50yds! Tremendous shooting. I was subsequently posted to 170 Provost Coy in Scotland, which for some reason appears to have little mention in your newsletters although I did find three of my old mates. I really like reading your newsletters Thank You Bob.' *Ed: Come on all you ex-170 Pro Coy put the company back on the map and make Eric feel a little happier.*

Reg Bolton also remembered Vic Parker and said, 'Sorry to hear of the passing of Captain V Parker, I am sure that I would be one of the many trained in shooting with various weapons at Inkerman Barracks. It was the first time I had ever handled a fire arm. One amusing moment was when he said to me after my attempt with a revolver "Put a bayonet on it and charge", another time was when I loaded my old rifle and all the bullets escaped and he asked me was I making bananas. The scariest moment was when Amos turned around with the Sten gun to report it had stuck and we all hit the deck. My favourite gun was the Bren gun which I found to be the most accurate for me.'

-ooOoo-

Another story from the pen of Arthur Elliot. "The all WRAC squads started in Roussillion Barracks, Chichester late 1965. A downstairs wing was isolated with warning notices instructing men to "Keep Out". The first morning after the women had moved in, a pair of WRAC issued knickers was seen flying from the main barracks flagpole where the Corps flag should have been. The then Commandant was not impressed. Despite the camp being full of police personnel, both trained and in training, the culprit was never apprehended.

-ooOoo-

Barry Gough said, 'Dear Bob, thank you for your newsletter this month which I always read with pleasure. Two items caught my eye and reminded me of good days gone by. The first was the article about the dog unit and the photo of the dog unit in Cyprus. I served in 227 Pro Coy a short time after the Turkish invasion and my two years there were two of the best in my life. I also trained there as a dog handler and believe I may have been the last in that unit to do so as when I left the then OC said having police dogs was no longer part of our role and that they would now be handled by the local Army Depot Police. I remember training with the RAVC unit with my dog Marx. We were taught searching, tracking and the normal police dog duties for patrols. Marx was a grand beast who could be gentle enough to be around children yet fearsome in the attack. It was also strange given the climate that Marx was also a long haired German shepherd. I did have to smile when I saw the 'Baiting Suit,' I think we were still using the same one when I trained! Sadly on leaving 227 Marx was transferred over to the ADP. I went from 227 to 112 Osnabruck and on arrival the OC seeing I was a trained dog handler set me up with the only dog they possessed, Ludo, which sadly had not been used properly for a few weeks since the last handler left. He was totally mad and his biggest exercise was chasing the trains which regularly ran through the rear of Blacker Barracks. Ludo also turned out to be a good police dog once I started re-training him with the local German Police Dog unit. Boy did they have some menacing curs. Sadly after about 15 months I left 112 and again the OC decided to call time on the Company having a police dog. Ludo was back loaded to the RAVC at Sennelager for retraining but that was not the last time I met up with him, I'll save that story for another day.

The second item that I read pertaining to my career was rather sadder. It concerned the death notices and the announcement of the recent death of Capt Tony Scanlon. I met Capt Scanlon when he first arrived in Aldergrove and I think he was the 2IC of 179 Pro Coy. I was then serving with 175 Pro Coy

in 1974 and Chick Harding was my first platoon SSgt in RMP, what a great platoon commander he was. Although I never served actually with Tony Scanlon our paths crossed quiet a lot and my friends in 179 regarded him highly as a decent officer and "One of the boys". Sometime later Nick Crew took over as OC of 175 and thus became my OC for my last six months in NI before I went to Cyprus. Years later after I had left the Army I came across all three. They had also left the army and set up their security business. They were visiting Harrods and may have been seeing Bob Loftus who by then was the head of security at Harrods. It is really sad to think that all three have now left us. RIP a great platoon commander, a very good OC and a 2IC who was to his men 'One of the boys'.

Euan Grant also made comment about the late Tony Scanlon. He said, 'Your last two issues of your newsletter, as usual, made some good reading. Saddened to hear about the passing of Tony Scanlon. He was an excellent guy who had very little CP experience but when he formed "Winguard" with the late Nick Crew and Chick Harding he proved to be a very good Q/Admin Officer/Chief clerk/Banker and scrounger, a really nice guy.' Euan added, 'I had Ken Blake stay with me for a long week end and we had some excellent tales to go over when we were at Longmoor and when we were both WO1s together in BAOR. He told me that a couple of reunions had been held at Longmoor, and disappointingly as one of the 3 guys to set the whole CP training schedule I was a wee bit surprised at not hearing about them. Glad to hear that your branch visit went well.'

-ooOoo-



The photograph above was one of two sent in by Kenneth Sparkes. It is simply entitled "Burniston CMP". I found it interesting for a couple of reason. Firstly it features the economy battledress design which has the buttons exposed. It also shows NCOs with Good Conduct stripes on the lower left sleeve. It is possible that these NCOs were transferees from another regiment or corps as I do not think it was common practise for military policemen to have such awards.

The Good-Conduct stripe was a British Army award for good conduct during service in the Regular Army by an enlisted man. The insignia was a points-up chevron of NCO's lace worn on the lower sleeve of the uniform jacket. It was given to Privates and Lance Corporals for 2, 6, 12, or 18 years' service without being subject to formal discipline. A further stripe was awarded for every 5 years of good service after the 18th (23-, 28-, 33-, 38-, 43-, or 48 years). If the soldier had never had their

name written in the Regimental Conduct Book, they earned the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th stripes after 16-, 21-, 26-, and 32 years respectively.

It granted a pay bonus as a sort of "carrot" to get non-promotable enlisted men to behave. As the "stick", a stripe would be removed for an infraction (a write-up in the Regimental Conduct Book) and a Court Martial would forfeit all of them. The soldier would then have to start from the last stripe earned and work his way up again. It was also removed upon attaining the rank of Corporal, as Non-Commissioned Officers were promoted by merit and punished by loss of rank.

-ooOoo-



Congratulations to Colonel Vivienne Buck who has been selected to be the next Provost Marshal (Army); she will be promoted to Brigadier and take up post in July 2019. Not only will Colonel Buck be the 43rd Provost Marshal (Army) in the modern era, since 1861, but also the first female Provost Marshal (Army) and the first female Brigadier from the Royal Military Police.

CAN YOU HELP

Mike Crowhurst contacted me about Squad 7307 and said, 'Dear Bob, I am hoping that you may be able to furnish me with the names of my above squad. We passed out in October, 1973, but we did not have either a parade or squad photo. Also is there any individual photos taken from that squad. Sergeant Mick Cross and Corporal Mick Newell were our NCOs.' *Ed: If you can help then please reply to me.*

John Pickersgill also contacted me with a request. 'Bob, I have had this request from Dave Picton ex RCT, he was the GOC's driver with us in 177 Pro Coy. He asked if we could help in finding an old friend. Dave's message was as follows, 'John, a favour please. My wife and her friend are trying to find a childhood friend from Bradford, who did her basic training at Guildford in Nov 65, before going on to be an RMP. Her name is Anne Beer, believed to have moved to Australia after demob.' *Ed: Once again, if you can help please contact me.*

Kenn Coates is seeking a copy of squad photographs of Squad 7505 and Squad 7506. *Ed: By now you know where to send any information.*

The last call for help is from Ken Sharman. 'Bob, during my training in 1951 Capt Picket was OC 'C' Company in the Depot at Inkerman. Later in my life I worked for him in a small garage in the village Headley in Hampshire. We parted ways and he remained in the village but mysteriously drifted away and I'd love to know if he's alright. He was akin to the village squire. He wasn't actually an RMP officer as in those dark far off days there weren't any apart from the Provost marshal. They could have come from any of the regiments in our country I understand.' *Ed: That is a long shot but you never know.*

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

The details for the Hohne Reunion 2019 have arrived already so all you former Desert Rats read on.

COSTS FOR REUNION 2019.
Date 29 to 31 March 19
Holiday Inn J10 M6
Standard room £60 per night including breakfast
Friday buffet £16 per person
Saturday dinner £26 per person
20% off all drinks

BOOKINGS TO COMMENCE 1 SEPT 18. The first 120 people to book will be guaranteed a place.

Any numbers after that will be placed on a reserve list. To book call 01922618600 option 2 Booking Code EMP.

I can be contacted on 07936186986 or Email peter589richards@btinternet.com

Steve Ketteringham is offering some advice. 'I am sure you have all seen the ads on the TV about PPI, well I have to say it is like getting money for nothing. I have made 3 claims, 2 of which have been paid up and I am now £6800 better off. I have another couple of weeks before I get the remaining claim paid. I know there are firms advertising to help you with your claim but please do not use them, they take a commission ergo you lose money. I did all the claims myself simply by going to the Credit Card web site and searching for PPI Complaints, then filling out their forms; it is really easy. I have helped two other ex-pats here and they are awaiting payment.

Do not worry if you live overseas or if you actually agreed to PPI in the first place as you can still claim under what is called the Plevin Clause, it is on Google so check it out. Basically, the UK Credit Card companies and banks were charging you for PPI on loans and credit cards and gaining a commission on every payment into them, this was deemed illegal, hence my success at claiming.

You have until next August to make the claim so give it a try, if you need help then let me know. Do not worry about if you have forgotten the card number, that doesn't matter either as long as you know what card you had from what supplier, Mastercard, Visa, MBNA etc.

Royal Military Police Poppy Pins 2018

This year's RMP Poppy Pins are ready to be ordered, if you would like any please email Maj Sav Kyriakou via sav.kyriakou@hotmail.com and follow the automated response, orders need to be received by **Sunday 30 Sep 18**.

A reminder that 100% of all monies, less the cost of manufacture and envelopes / packaging is split equally with the RBL and RMP CBF. Thank you for supporting these worthy causes.

Ed: Last year there was a bit of a glitch which delayed some deliveries and I received a number of e-mails on the matter. Please note that I am not personally involved with the distribution nor is the Association. All enquires must be directed to Major Kyriakou.

DEATHS

CLIFTON

Former Corporal Clive Clifton passed away on the 23rd July 2018. From what I have been able gather Clive transferred to 253 Provost Company RMP from the Royal Artillery in 1967 upon the reorganisation of the Territorial Army. He served with the unit until approximately 1972 during which time he was the Signals NCO.

BINKS

Former 22119328 Lance-Corporal Ken Binks. Ken trained in Squad 99 and served as a National Serviceman in 1950. According to Ken's son, Christopher, his Father was called up into the Artillery at Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, simply due to his father being a Gunner in the Great War. When it was decided there were too many Gunners he was offered the Paras with the, he thought, altogether resistible temptation of an extra 2/6 a day when jumping! Or the RMP – he chose the RMP. As far as can be ascertained Ken saw service in BAOR. It is believed on discharge he served with 1 Section, Army Emergency Reserve RMP.

LEMAR

Former 22381412 Lance-Corporal Geoffrey Lemar passed away on the 16th May 2018. He trained in Squad 171 and went on to serve in Berlin 1950 to 1952.

LOVELOCK

All I am able to ascertain at the time of writing is that Geoff Lovelock affectionately known as "BAM BAM" recently died.

LOW

Former 23463211 Warrant Officer Class 2 Jack Low passed away on the 28th August 2018 at his home in Verl, Germany. Following training with 556 Squad in 1956 Jack went on to serve with the following provost units. 4 Inf Div, 5 Inf Div, 200 (Singapore), 101, RMPTC, 2 Div, 2 RMP, Rhinedahlen Garrison, Long Service List at Hounslow and Soest until 1988.

SIMPSON

Former 22652269 Staff Sergeant Frank J. Simpson died on 22 Jul 18. He transferred to the MPSC from the RMP in 1960.

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