



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE OLD COMRADES LINK UP NEWSLETTER #135 SEPTEMBER 2018



NEW CONTACTS



Only one contact this month but I found it interesting. It began with a brief e-mail followed by a long telephone conversation and further e-mails. The person I am talking about is one Bruce Dalton who was commissioned into the Corps on the 26th October 1957. Prior to this date Bruce had a previous life in the Royal Marines and completed training at Lymptone on 21st March 1957. He then went to Eaton Hall, Officer Cadet School but as a result of the Royal Marines being over strength with



officers he elected to serve in the Corps reporting to Inkerman Barracks on the 26th October 1957. As no course was readily available Bruce managed to squeeze in parachute training, completing his eight jumps on the 17th December 1957 and a motor cycle course at Inkerman. His exciting life ended when he had to get down to some serious study on Provost Officers Course No.102. (See photograph later in the newsletter)

In March 1958 he was attached to 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Provost Company, Aldershot. A month later his posting to Cyprus was cancelled and he was sent on a Dog Training Course, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Melton Mowbray. Having successfully avoided being savaged by some canine beast he was sent to No 1 War Dog [Training] Unit, Sennelager, Germany in May 1958 and by June he was Acting Captain, 2IC and Training Officer, No 1 War Dog Unit. In December of the same year he

reverted to 2nd Lieutenant prior to his discharge having competed a somewhat eventful two years in the Corps without actually serving a Provost Company for any length of time. He was transferred to RMP Army Emergency National Service List, in January 1959. He later discovered, when he applied for his records, that he had been promoted to Lieutenant, posted to 245 GHQ Provost Company posted to Pool and transferred to the Regular Army Reserve of Officers (RARO) in June 1962. Since 2007 he has been a member of the London Branch of the RMP Association.

YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

I received the following from Geoff Kimber. 'You may remember that a couple of years ago you received a phone call from a Joyce Bartrop asking if you knew the whereabouts of Geoff Kimber who served in Singapore 1957-1959. She went on to say that in those far off days (nearly sixty years ago)



Circa 1958, Singapore

I had taught her to swim in the pool in Gillman Barracks. I knew her as Joyce Fowler in those days and she was serving in the Queen Alexander's Royal Army Nursing Corps at the British Military Hospital in Singapore. Well we met up a couple of weeks ago in Chester and here are the photographs. After I left Singapore and lost touch with Joyce she went on to marry another RMP, John Bartrop. Sadly she was widowed a few years ago. With her daughter and my wife we had a most enjoyable day in Chester. Thank you for putting us back in touch. Best wishes' Ed: Geoff, thank



Circa 2018, Chester

you for message and I am pleased that everything worked out well. I will move on before I become all "Mills & Boon".

-ooOoo-

I received the following from Helen and Alex Menmuir who found time to visit Cyprus. 'Hi Bob, I thought you might want to include this in your next newsletter. For all you ex 227 (NEARELF) Pro Coy RMP, NCO's. During my recent holiday to Cyprus I was able to get into Dhekelia SBA and visit the Garrison and Nightingale Bks. And see what it looks like now.

I was posted the first time in Jan 69 till late 71 when it was Coy HQ with an OC, 2IC, CSM and a full complement of NCOs. On my second tour 79 to 81 it had been reduced to a detachment of CSM and about 12 NCOs, this time it has been further reduced to 5 NCOs, LReg Anthony Kay RN, Cpl. Kate Allen RMP, and Cpl Jamie McGhee RAFP plus two further RAF Police and is now called CJPU Dhekelia How times have changed.

The Duty room is now based in what was the RP staff accommodation opposite the guardroom. The old unit building is still there but is now transit



accommodation and what was the accommodation is now occupied by other soldiers. I was able to get round to what was the Cpls' Mess, it is still there but it has an extension and is now a Junior Ranks Club. Those that remember the paving outside the mess has been altered, it used to be crazy type paving laid by me in 1969 it is now paving slabs and extended, the fish pond built by Graham Lazenby at the same time is now filled in with plants, the dance floor is still there but very run down chipped with some of the wall lights missing, and John (Gabby) Hunters budgie aviary has gone as well. All in all it is not as pristine as we will remember it but that is the passage of time I suppose.

We were able to see quite a lot of the garrison thanks to Anthony's assistance. Changes are quite significant but with a lot less troops in the garrison it has to be expected, i.e. the Garrison Sgts' Mess building has gone and been re-located somewhere else, the NAAFI building opposite. The unit has gone completely, as has the main NAAFI building and various other building as well. There is a more up to date NAAFI shop and a very nice Costas Coffee shop.

Overall I am pleased I was able to see the Base and remember it as it was and if anyone else from our era gets the chance hopefully now you will not be as disappointed as I was.' Ed: Many thanks Alex, I am sure that many memories will be rekindled as a result of your report.



-ooOoo-

Jim Bowers somehow slipped off the distribution list and just wished me to put a hello to and old comrades he served with in Malta Provost Company, 165 Provost Company, 116 Provost Company and RMP TA HQ Chichester.

-ooOoo-

I received a hand written letter (*remember them?*) from James Howe who said, "Greetings from the sunny Algarve to you lucky people who have all the rain (*not this year James*). I would like to say how much I enjoy your newsletters each month but I sadly miss any information, or hardly any information about the 6th Armoured Division Provost Company. After leaving Inkerman Barracks I was posted to Kiwi Barracks, Bulford where the 6th Armoured Provost Company was being formed up before they left for Western Germany. The Officer Commanding was Major Dickie Richardson. I read with interest that the RMP had been given the Freedom of Salisbury. This is a city where I did foot patrols many times. When we were due to leave Bulford for Germany the OC decided that he would show the people of Salisbury what the company was made of and so with the permission of the Council and the Mayor we did a rather spectacular farewell parade. Glad to read about the Freedom of the City and maybe 6th Armoured Division Provost Company was the beginning.' James added that his neighbour up the road is former RSM Bob Collins and his wife Jackie.

James included a copy of a photograph during the said parade which was taken in 1953. I have tried to enhance the copy but although it is not perfect it is still interesting.





PROVOST OFFICERS COURSE No. 102. February 1958



2/Lt. J. C. Pitts 2/Lt. B. R. Dalton 2/Lt. T. L. Taylor 2/Lt. T. Neesham 2/Lt. J. S. Lodge
2/Lt. A. L. Drew 2/Lt. J. H. Rosier 2/Lt. Ong Kim Suan Capt. P. J. Stevens CSM R. Bryant Capt. M. G. A. Young 2/Lt. A. S. Everitt

I promised to show this photograph later in the newsletter. It was taken in February 1958 and was of Provost Officers Course No.102 and features left to right as usual, rear row: 2Lt J Pitts, 2Lt B Dalton, 2Lt T Taylor, 2Lt T Neesham and 2Lt J Lodge. Front row: 2Lt A Drew, 2lt J Rosier, 2Lt Ong Kim Suan, Capt P Stevens, CSM R Bryant, Capt M Young and 2Lt A Everitt.

DEATHS

CHATHAM

Lieutenant-Colonel Gerald Ian ("Ian") Chatham passed away peacefully in hospital on the 24th August, shortly after his 94th birthday. His health had been failing for a few years and his mobility was poor, but he always spoke fondly of his time with the RMP. Educated at Pocklington and having seen over two-year's service in the ranks during the Second World War, Ian gained an Emergency Commission in August 1945 and was gazetted to the Royal Welch Fusiliers (RWF). He transferred to the Royal Military Police in 1961. Initially he commanded 158 Provost Company and then served variously as a Deputy-Assistant-Provost Marshal with Headquarters Far East Land Forces; as Chief Instructor at the Royal Military Police Training Centre, Chichester and on the staff of the Provost Marshal (Army); and he was the last Assistant-Provost Marshal appointed to Northern Command, then headquartered in York. He completed his service as Assistant-Provost Marshal (Rhine Area) in Düsseldorf, retiring from the Active List in 1976. He is survived by three daughters and no fewer than 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. His wife Joyce predeceased him in 2016.

GILES-TOWNSEND

Former 22492183 Lance-Corporal John Giles-Townsend died peacefully aged 85, on the 25th August, at Bridport Hospital in Dorset, after a period of illness. John enlisted in 1951, originally badged to REME in Dorchester, after which he transferred to RMP. Following training at Inkerman Barracks, Woking in Squad 235, he served with Middle-east Land Forces in 203 Provost Company in Port Said and Tel-el-Kebir Garrison in Egypt and then Headquarters Tripoli District Provost Company in Tripolitania (modern-day Libya). Following the completion of his National Service in 1953, John returned to his native Bridport where he served as an elected Councillor on a number of local bodies. John was a loyal member of both Taunton and Dorset Branches. His funeral service was held on the 11th September at Bridport Crematorium. Dennis leaves a widow, Jeanne.



HAND

Former 19141716 Lance Corporal William Frederick Hand passed away on the 29th August 2018. As far as it can be ascertained he served with 241 GHQ Provost Company in 1940 and later went to Berlin in 1945. 241 GHQ Provost Company became 248 Provost Company. *Ed: I have received further information on William Hand and will feature it in the next edition.*

HART

Captain Robin ("Bob") E J Hart passed away on the 21st September 2018, after a long illness. Bob saw service with the RMP, particularly in the SIB, and then went on to serve with distinction with the Police Advisory Branch of the Joint-Services Liaison Organisation based in Germany, completing an aggregate of 46 years of service to the Crown. Bob enlisted in June 1958, and trained with 691 Squad at Inkerman Barracks, before going on to serve with 2 Divisional Provost Company in Lübbecke and then overseas in Aden. On his subsequent successful transfer to the SIB, Bob served in Malta, Benghazi, Rheindahlen, Osnabruck, Northern Ireland, with the United Nations in Cyprus, at HQ SIB in London and in Dortmund/Werl. Gaining a Commission in 1976, Bob went on to serve with the SIB in Osnabruck, Münster and Bielefeld before a further posting to Northern Ireland in 1980. In April 1982, Bob retired from the Active List in order to take up a position as a Police Advisor based in Düsseldorf. In 1993, Bob was promoted to the position of Chief Police Advisor and in 1998, with the drawdown of BAOR, moved the Advisory Branch to Rheindahlen.

HOLLAND

In-Pensioner Number 396 Dennis Holland died on the 27th August, aged 91. Dennis was born in 1927 and served in the Corps of Military Police (CMP) during the Second World War and afterwards in the Royal Military Police (RMP) until 1952. Dennis became an In-Pensioner in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in 2003. Dennis initially saw service in the General Service Corps* and subsequently in the Corps of Royal Engineers before transferring to the CMP.

HOLLINGSBEE

Major Terence Paul ("Terry") Hollingsbee passed on the 17th September 2018 at the age of 76 years. Terry enlisted in the Corps of Royal Military Police in 1961, and having reached the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1 and being appointed Regimental Sergeant-Major at 115 Provost Company in Osnabrück, gained a Commission in the Corps in 1982. Most notably, Terry commanded 246 Provost Company, 2 Regiment, at Helmstedt from late 1988 and thereafter during the tumultuous time of the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the fall of the Inner-German Border (IBG) when Berlin and 'Allied Checkpoint Alpha' at Helmstedt-Marienborn were both the focus of the world's attention in the autumn and winter of 1989. Letters of condolence should be sent to Terry's widow, Doreen, at: 4, St. Georges Close, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. B75 7BW.

ROWE

Former 22233567 Warrant Officer Class 2 Richard 'Dick' Rowe passed away on the 11th September 2018. Dick, or "Pop" as he was sometime known, served in Trieste, Singapore, BAOR, Barnard Castle, Ipswich and finally with 243 Provost Company RMP(V) in Edinburgh. His funeral was held in Patna, Ayrshire on the 20th September and former members of 6 Infantry Brigade Provost Unit carried the coffin to the grave. The photograph on the right shows Dick's daughter Pat and granddaughter Fiona, with Mike Bliss, Mel Cole, Bernie Walsh, Jimmy Turpie (ACC), Alan Mews and Robbie Thompson.



-ooOoo-



The above photograph is one from the archives of the Museum. Were you or do you know the RMP driver shown in the photograph? It was taken in 1963 at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Pwllheli. Billy Butlin (he was knighted in 1964) is seated in the passenger's seat and you do not need me to tell you who the VIP (or should I say VVIP) passengers are.

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