



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



#6 OCTOBER 2018

Dear colleague,

We open up this month's newsletter with evidence that the Northern Ireland Branch have been as busy as ever. Their first contribution relates to a visit by WO1 Marc Thomson, Pro SM, at Thiepval Barracks. They enjoyed a briefing from him on the RMP world as it is today and afterwards adjourned to the Sergeants' Mess for lunch.



L-R Tanky Walker, Brian Thomas, Simon Pringle, John Carroll, John McNeill, Simon Barnett, Nigel Parnaby, Pro SM, John Winstanley, Jim Walker, Alan Officer, Brian Roberts, Sgt Rick Lacey, Pete Hunt, Ray Spence.

The Branch wishes to thank Marc for taking time out of his extremely busy schedule and to Lisburn Det RMP, for supplying coffee/tea, biscuits and cheese on our arrival.



The second contribution from the same branch relates to attendance at an open night at the of the RMP Cadet unit in Moira on Monday 1st October. Tanky Walker said *"It was great to see future members of the RMP. An excellent night and a number of them promoted which isn't bad considering they have only been going for a year."* See are: Front left, Ray Spence. Front right, Maj Pete Hunt, together with Maj Matt Davie.

The photograph below shows members of Northern Ireland Branch attending the funeral of Colin Loomie on the 5th October 2018



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Now we go to the other side of the world to Western Australia who are just starting to enjoy their spring.

RMPA Western Australia Branch held its 2018 Annual Dinner evening on Friday 12 October where we were entertained by our honorary piper, David Murray. Our special guest speaker was Max Noble, son of our esteemed chaplain, Rev David Noble. Max spoke on the history of submarine engineering and technology and gave a most interesting insight on the issues facing a modern era submarine fleet. Our raffle was well supported with the proceeds giving a boost to branch coffers in the lead-up to Christmas. This year the popular annual table quiz proved a real challenge and was won by Geoff and Sheila Wilkins, Sue and Barry Green and John Macpherson.



I have been asked to remind readers of the following event. **25 April 2019 Anzac Day parade Perth, Western Australia – the 'Redcaps' will again lead the British Ex Services Association (Inc).** So if you are heading out that way then make sure you make contact and join the parade.



The last message from Brian Griffiths could, in reality, have been sent by any branch Chairman. He said, "As you are aware we have lost a few members in recent times. Like all branches we have an aging membership and natural attrition is always a concern. I would also appreciate it if you could pen a few

words to the effect that if anyone has relatives or friends ex-RMP living in Australia or New Zealand, we would like to hear from them. Our branch is pleased to offer a hand of friendship and provide a helpful conduit of information to former members of the Royal Military Police."



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Since being appointed as Chair, and in my previous role as Vice Chair I have never failed to be amazed at the dedication of branch members who continually turn out when called upon to do so. Sadly a great number of these occasions are funerals where a former member of the Corps is finally laid to rest regardless whether he or she has been a close supporter of any particular branch or not. I would like to share the following letter with you but I have withheld names and the branch.

"I would just like to formally express my appreciation for you part in making dad's service a special and memorable one.

As you know, dad had lived with us for quite some time and our feelings of loss are great. We are very close to moving into our new home and I have been unsure of what was to organise his room. His bed, chair and bedding are all new and just bought for him. My friend told me that it would be foolish to close the door to his new bedroom and turn it into some sort of shrine, so we thought we'd let Joshua have his room as a playroom. Josh, our youngest is special needs and his Grandpa adored him so I'm sure Dad would be pleased that he will get to use it. I now feel a little more optimistic about the move.

My sister-in-law told me that it was the best funeral she was ever at....strange sentiment but I really did feel a sense of warmth and support. That Daddy was so well thought of made us all proud.

Please extend my thanks to everyone for coming all this way and giving Dad the funeral that we only could've dreamt of for him.

Although a little overwhelmed at the time (in a good way), to have you all standing so smart and saluting as we left the graveside, was the most moving experience of my lifetime.

I love you all for making one of my saddest days....one of my proudest moment....and to our Tom for always being able to make me laugh."

Ladies and gentlemen of the Association, this is what we do best, support when and where needed although in some cases distances and locations prohibit travel. This is the charitable side of the Association being reflected through dedicated individuals upholding the true traditions of the Corps. It is sad that on occasions the Association is painted in a bad light, mainly on media websites by others who remain faceless and do not actively support the Association in any physical way.

Some of the comments stem from the lack of understanding relating to the roles of the Association and the Royal Military Police Central Benevolent Fund (CBF). They are

two separate charities with the latter being in a position to financially support deserving cases. The Association does not have this financial capability but will continue to support in a hands on manner when called upon to do so. If funds were available then we would be able to do more.

Please keep up the excellent work you are doing and perhaps others will follow in your footsteps.

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Just to remind you that the Annual Reunion is taking place between the 10th and 12th May at Stretton, near Warrington. If, for any reason, you have not received the Administrative Instructions then please contact me immediately.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 10th November 2018 Provost (RMP/MPS) Field of Remembrance Service, Westminster Abbey commencing at 1150 hrs.

For anyone in the Yorkshire area wanting to parade shoulder to shoulder with fellow Redcaps

The West Yorkshire Branch RMPA on Sunday 11 November 18 will once again be parading at Pudsey Parish Church and War Memorial to pay our respect to "The Fallen" Then afterwards Sunday Lunch at The Manor Golf Club, Drighlington, Leeds. More information contact Davey Paynter, westyorksbranchrmpa@outlook.com

Dorset Branch Christmas Lunch - 5th December 2018 at the Remedy Oak Golf Club, Horton Road, Woodlands, near Wimborne, Dorset BH21 8ND. For further details either contact Brian Samways brian_samways@btinternet.com or me.

Taunton Branch Christmas Luncheon - 14th December 2018. Details to be announced.

13th January 2019. Depot Branch post-Christmas Lunch at Southsea. Details from me.

10th February 2019, RMP Parade and Service, HM Tower of London.

10th - 12th May 2019 Annual Reunion at Stretton, near Warrington hosted by Cheshire and North Wales Branch. If you would like further details please contact me.

11th May 2019, RMPA Trustees' Meeting, Royal Park Hotel, Stretton

11th May 2019 Annual General meeting, 1400 hrs, Royal Park Hotel, Stretton

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

If you require further details about any event then please contact me via e-mail or telephone.

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