



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE  
OLD COMRADES LINK UP  
NEWSLETTER #138 DECEMBER 2018



**YOUR CORRESPONDENCE**

Rece Porter sent in a short message, 'Thanks again for the newsletter. Sad to hear the news of John Sweeney's passing. We were in Aden together; 24 Brigade Provost Unit.

**Representing Great Britain at Para Carriage Driving Trials**

By Sue Johnson

I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2000. Despite this I carried on working as a Police officer but in 2012 I had a heart attack and that is when I had to retire from the police service.

I had ridden horses all my life but following a serious riding accident my husband suggested I take up carriage driving instead. Of course, it is easy to hire a riding horse but not simple to hire a carriage driving horse, so I went for lessons with James Broome (son of the Olympic show jumper David Broome) to see if I could cope with it. I loved it, so James said I would have to buy my own horse. Sadly, I don't have access to any fields for grazing, so my husband Chris dug up our garden and built me a stable and 20-meter woodchip paddock and tack room. I started searching for a horse and as soon as I saw Toby I knew he was the one as his bum was bigger than mine.

Initially he was stabled at the David Broome Event Centre, so I could have regular lessons with James and make sure I was safe to drive out on the road. I passed the BDS Road Safety exam and then brought Toby home. I could see him from my kitchen window, so he even made doing the washing up a pleasure

My intention was to just do pleasure driving as it would get me out of the house but as the Forest of Dean Driving Group did a club trial at the David Broome Event Centre I started some fun competitions. This is the sport that Prince Phillip used to do and involves driving a dressage test, a marathon course with eight solid obstacles to negotiate and a cones course of 20 cones with balls on with penalties for any balls knocked off all to be completed in an optimum time. It was fabulous, and I was hooked.

Toby could be quite cheeky when he saw the cones and put in a big buck, but it wasn't malicious, he was just excited, and he never kicked back. From there we moved on to two-day events with the Midlands Group and then joined the Carriage Driving Sports Group for disabled drivers.

We had a go at anything. Driving in the Forest of Dean up steep banks and down uneven slopes was nothing for Toby. His strong build as he was a Cob X Shire enabled him to take on all challenges be it driving down the A48 with HGV's and tractors passing us at speed without a second glance or showing at local level and at Windsor in front of Her Majesty the Queen. TREC, Carriage Dog Driving Trials, The London Harness Horse Parade, fancy dress you name it, we did it. He even liked to jump streams when he was in the carriage which was a great way to find out if your back stepper was holding on tight!

I was the Novice Champion of the Forest of Dean Driving Trials Group in 2013 and my International debut was at Sandringham in 2013. I had only just gained my competence card, so we went straight in at the deep end from Pre-Novice to an International event where I came 10<sup>th</sup> out of 11 but thoroughly enjoyed myself.

My finest hour was when I represented Great Britain at the World Para Driving Trials at Sandringham in 2014. I had to drive my dressage test in pouring rain and I was soaked to the skin. Luckily the weather was better for the marathon as driving at speed through solid obstacles is not for the faint hearted. The final day of the World Championships I will never forget that moment when I drove the difficult cones route and was the only one in my grading to finish with a double clear having perfectly judged my clear round in 214.47 seconds of the 215 allowed!!! The roars and whoops from the crowd

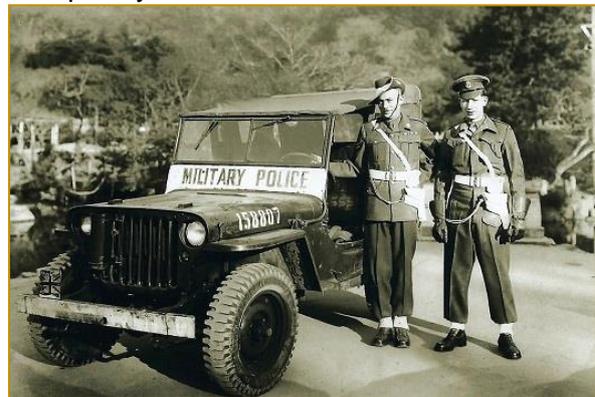
almost drowned out the double clear music. I set a standard that nobody else could follow in my Grading This made me 7<sup>th</sup> in the world at my grading and World Champion in my grading at the cones phase..

Toby became my reason for getting out of bed every morning when my disability was painful and all I wanted to do was give up. He was my hero and if I fell over in the paddock he would just walk over and stand by me, so I could pull myself up his legs. He was a special boy who enjoyed what he did and always tried hard.



-ooOoo-

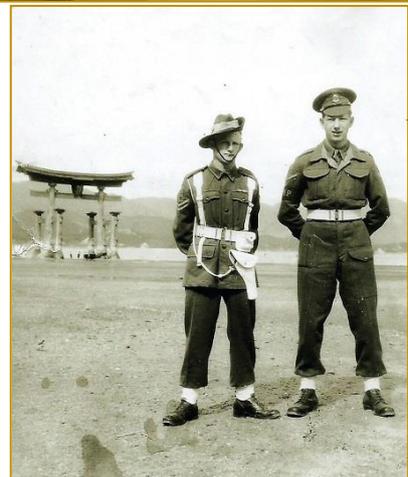
The time has come for a big clear out and I must apologise to those of you that have sent in articles, photographs and have not seen them in print. Sheer pressure of work was the main reason but I am not making that an excuse. I came across three photographs sent to me by former 14457994 Sergeant Ronald Stone who enlisted in December 1944 and served in the Devonshire Regiment before transferring to the Corps a year later. He went on to serve in Japan and in the UK.



The photographs were all taken in 1946, the one above was taken in Kure, top right was taken in Kyoto and the third was taken in Miyajima. I understand that the others in the photographs are members of the Australian Forces.

-ooOoo-

I had occasion to converse with Mike Seaborne regarding the Gurkha Military Police which were disbanded in 1965 if my memory serves me right. As a result I received the photograph below which shows one of my favourite



vehicles, the iconic Landrover. At least you could easily spot them if you were carry out the duties as Pointsman at night. The photograph was taken in 1956



-ooOoo-

Rece Porter mentioned Aden in a message to me and I asked if he had some photographs and a couple came my way.



Keith Yallop and Rece Porter on patrol-Aden Beach-1965



Some names are missing from the NCOs shown above. Rear row: N/K, Colin Mathews, Doug Ferguson and Rece Porter. Front row: N/K, Jack Russell, John Abbott (deceased), Bruce Carlise and possibly Pete Missenden.

-ooOoo-

Brian Andrews sent in the following. 'On the assumption that the majority of readers will have spent at least one tour in Germany and given the nature of our jobs will automatically have come into direct contact with the German population, I thought the attached German language idioms may be of interest. My first experience of German hospitality was Christmas 1958 whilst stationed in Helmstedt (ACD) when a German family invited me to a Christmas dinner - traditionally on Christmas Eve. Armed with a bottle of you know what and dressed accordingly, off I went to spend a super evening with the family and they tried - in vain - to teach me rudimentary chess! Even if I had have known at least one or two expressions, perhaps the evening would have been just a mite more enjoyable. The following year - 1959 - and now back in the 'divided' city, yet another family invited two NCOs from 247 along to their home in Tegel. Being the RSM's clerk, I did the obvious and took a pal along with me. In the meantime, my German had progressed to being able to order three beers together with the appropriate 'please' (plus, in all modesty a little more) and given that the family all spoke quite passable English, again had an enjoyable Christmas Eve away from home.

In the hope that future generations will never have to spend years overseas occupying or serving in a foreign country, the very best compliments of the season to all wherever you and yours may be. If of necessity you do, do try to pick up at least a few of the local expressions.'

### **Fabulous German Expressions That Will Make You Sound Like A Native**

**These popular expressions about (new) beginnings, endings and sausages are an unbeatable way to understand the German mindset.**

By [Gabriel Mestieri](#)

Illustrations by [Chaim Garcia](#)

When I moved to Germany two years ago, I jumped in at the deep end: no place to live, no job lined up, I didn't even know German yet! Thankfully, learning a language is one of the best ways to



understand another culture. And it's impossible to learn a language without picking up quirky local expressions too. Not only did the following nine expressions help me understand the German mindset and point-of view, they also debunked a myth about the German language that I had been subconsciously holding against it: that it's too harsh and direct, leaving no space for figures of speech or playful prose. But nothing could be further from the truth!

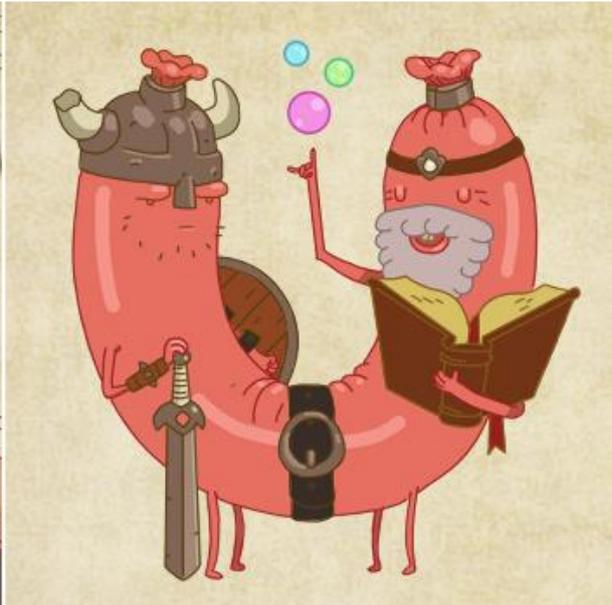
Follow me on a journey from noob to (almost) native with the expressions that guided me along the way.

#### **"Aller Anfang ist schwer." (Every beginning is hard.)**

When I decided to quit my job in São Paulo and move to Berlin, I bought a plane ticket and booked a hostel for two weeks. That was literally all the planning I did. But if I had known this expression, I would have braced myself for a rude awakening. With the two weeks in the hostel about to end, I found out the hardest way that finding a place to live in Berlin can take up to several months. Getting a job wouldn't be a picnic either: yes, Berlin has plenty of jobs to offer, but finding one that fits your skills and expectations is another story. Now, two years later, I think I've earned the right to tell newcomers: *Aller Anfang ist schwer*. But don't give up — you'll find the right job and that dream flat in Kreuzkölln eventually.

#### **"Kein Bier vor vier." (No beer before four.)**

When I was still new to the city, I used to go to German classes in the mornings and, having nothing to do with the rest of the day (besides, ahem, looking for a job), I'd wile away the afternoons enjoying a beer or two. I learned this expression when a classmate refused to have a beer at lunch with me. When I asked why, I got the curt, four-word answer, "*Kein Bier vor vier*." That kernel of wisdom didn't dissuade me (I had the beer with lunch anyway), but the expression has been one of my favorites ever since. Composed of only 4 words, this expression impresses me for its simplicity and for being an example that, at least sometimes, it's possible to say a lot in only a few words of German.



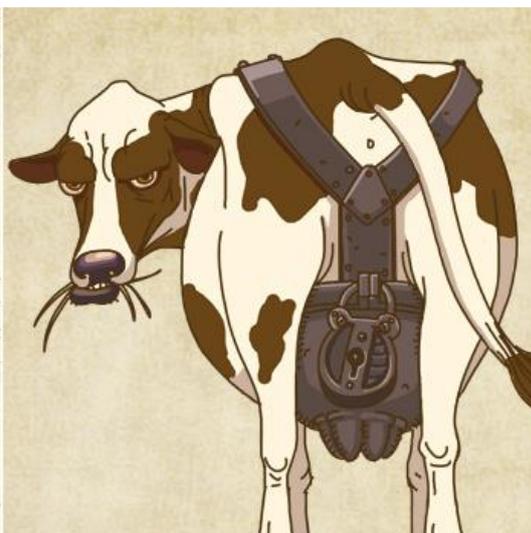
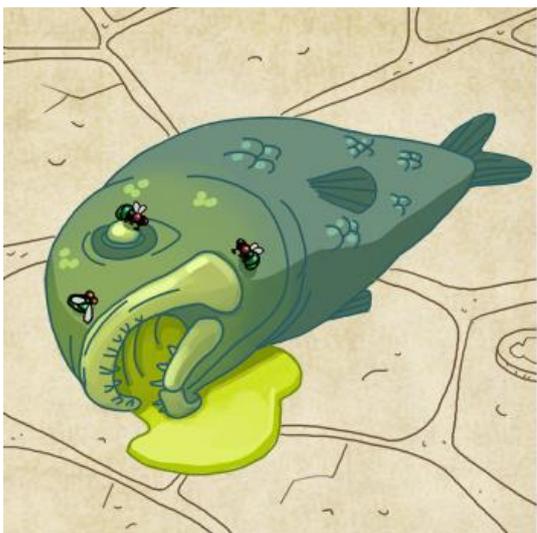
**"Alles hat ein Ende, nur die Wurst hat zwei." (Everything has an end, only the sausage has two.)**

Along with beer, most people associate Germany with sausages. And they'd be right to, because sausages are well represented in German idioms. My favorite of the German sausage truisms explains that everything comes to an end, so don't worry too much, alright? But don't get too attached to anything either, after all...

Anyway, what really makes this expression special is that it sets you up to expect something very deep and philosophical: "Alles hat ein Ende, [insert a very profound ending here]." But luckily the second part completely breaks this expectation by telling something obvious (which also involves a sausage). Who said that Germans don't have a sense of humor? (If you are interested in expressions about sausages, this is just one of many examples. [You can find more here](#). Or if you want to sing along, there's [this amazing video](#) from singer Stephan Remmler).

**"Der Fisch stinkt vom Kopf her." (The fish starts stinking from the head.)**

Still in the food and drinks category, this one brings the sense of smell into the equation with a strong metaphor. By saying that the fish starts to stink from the head ([which, by the way, is true](#)), the Germans most likely meant that the people in charge should be the first to blame when something goes wrong. For me, this one can also be interpreted on a more personal level: problems begin, and in fact only exist, in your head.



**"Nicht jede Kuh lässt sich melken." (Not every cow lets you milk it.)**

This one, the way I see it, is about resistance, resilience and establishing boundaries. Sometimes in life we have to do things we don't like and this might be especially painful when authority figures are involved. When someone thinks they can walk all over you, remember: Nicht jede Kuh lässt sich melken.

**"Erst kommt das Fressen, dann die Moral." (First comes the food, then the moral.)**

This is not exactly a popular expression, but rather a line from The Threepenny Opera ("Die Dreigroschenoper"), a play by the German dramatist Bertolt Brecht. For me, it perfectly exemplifies how the most pressing afflictions of life sometimes keep us from wondering about more existential (and important) questions. It totally relates with the way my life evolved after arriving in Berlin: in the first year, having to look for a job and a place to live, I didn't have time to think about the many mysteries of existence and the universe. Now that that initial phase is over, I finally have time to wonder: "Who am I?" "What am I doing on this planet?"



**"Ein gutes Gewissen ist ein sanftes Ruhekissen." (A clear conscience is a soft pillow.)**

I like to think that my conscience has always been (more or less) clear, but I've still had trouble sleeping for as long as I can remember. Also, I never heard of psychopaths having trouble falling asleep. So, although this expression sounds very nice with its rhyme and cool metaphor, I have to say I strongly disagree.

**"Knapp daneben ist auch vorbei." (Coming close is also missing it.)**



This one might be a bit painful for those who gave their best and arrived second — after all, isn't trying hard already good enough? Well, not according to this idiom. But let's not take everything so

seriously. This is a great thing to say to your German friends after beating them in any sports, competitions, card or video games (and the Germans do like games!)

**"Das Leben ist kein Ponyhof." (Life is not a pony farm.)**

To close the list, here's an expression that can be seen as a very hard take on life: Das Leben ist kein Ponyhof, so expect a lot of problems, things going wrong, and everything getting worse. But I prefer to interpret this a different way: a pony farm sounds extremely boring, so I'm glad that life has bit more excitement to offer!

-ooOoo-

Paul Price contacted me from his home in Spain. 'Once again many thanks for two excellent newsletters. I look forward every month to receiving your email as I know I am in for a very pleasant and enjoyable read bringing back memories of 23 years in the Corps especially during my time with 4 Div Pro Coy, 115 Pro Coy, 175 Pro Coy, 176 Pro Coy and UN MP Coy Nicosia. However there are on occasion moments of sadness when reading that someone I knew or had the pleasure of meeting had passed to the Great Duty Room in the sky (what a wonderful phrase by Ron Holroyd) which comes to us all at some point. When reading both the Old Comrades and RMPA Newsletters there is clearly a sense of pride by those submitting articles of being or have been members of the Corps. Didn't the Corps present themselves well at the Remembrance parade at the Cenotaph on 11<sup>th</sup> November.' *Ed: You are correct about the feeling of pride in the Corps expressed by those who contribute to the newsletters. As this is #138 I calculate that I have been churning them out for eleven and a half years and I only had to write the very first newsletter.*

-ooOoo-



Over the years I have caught up with many faces from the past. One I have known since 1971 when I was posted to Hong Kong Provost Company. There I met Lin Hung Ye, known as Lin, or Sergeant Lin as he was then. Those of you that served in that company in the late 60s,70s and beyond would have known him. During a recent visit to New York, Joy and I had the extreme good fortune of meeting up with him once again. By chance I had learned that he was visiting his daughter in Brooklyn and I was not going to miss the opportunity as we had not seen him for about seven years; the last time was during a visit to Hong Kong. So at 1200 hrs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December he turned up on cue at our hotel and the years just washed away. For three hours two 75 year old former soldiers chewed the fat and it was the high light of my visit to the Big Apple. We have made plans to meet up in Hong Kong in the not too distant future.

## DEATHS

### ELLISON

Former 22199447 Lance-Corporal Roy Ellison passed away on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 aged 88 years. He enlisted on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 1949 and was posted to Catterick Camp where he joined the

Royal Signals. A month later he transferred to the Corps and on completion of training was posted to 3 Dog Company RMP, Nairobi, Kenya. Following his demob from National Service he completed nearly four years with the AER. Roy was a member of the Cheshire and North Wales Branch. His funeral was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

#### **JOB**

Former 23563340 Warrant Officer Class 1 Norman "Butch" Job passed away at 1300 hours on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 following a short illness. He joined the Corps in 1958 and following training in Squad 687 went on to served with 5 Dog Company (Singapore), 156 Provost Company, SHAPE Provost Company, 1 (Br) Provost Company, JTR Rhyll, 48 Gurkha Brigade Provost Unit, 101 Provost Company, RMPTC, 102 Provost Company and 176 Provost Company. His funeral will take place on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019. There is to be a service at St Mary the Virgin Church, St Mary in the Marsh, Romney Marsh TN29 0BX commencing at 1300 hrs. Following the service refreshments will be available at The Star Inn which is opposite the church. Later the same day at 1630 hours the Committal will take place at the Hawkinge Crematorium, Aerodrome Road, Hawkinge, Folkstone CT18 7AG. Guests are not expected to attend the Committal but will be made welcome.

#### **SIMPSON**

Former 22652269 Staff-Sergeant Frank J Simpson died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018. Frank transferred to the MPSC in July 1981.

#### **WISE**

I have recently been informed of the death of former Warrant Officer Class 2 Harry Wise RMP/SIB. Harry passed away on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018. At the time of writing I do not have any other information.

-ooOoo-

I have a couple of points to conclude this edition. Firstly I seem to have lost a batch of e-mails covering the September period and I cannot find them anywhere. If you have not had a reply to a message sent to me about that time then please contact me again. I apologise on behalf of my PC. The last thing is to wish you and your families all the very best for the coming year, may you enjoy good health and great friendships.

Compiled by Bob Eggelton.  
02392265645  
07913997233  
joybob@btinternet.com  
Skype: pompeybob65