



# ROYAL MILITARY POLICE OLD COMRADES LINK UP NEWSLETTER ISSUE #116 FEBRUARY 2017



## NEW CONTACTS



### **BROWN**

Former 23422565 Lance-Corporal Alan Brown is a classic case of details not being updated. I now know he is on the Internet and we are in contact. Alan, who was in Squad 658 served in Berlin from 1958 – 1959.

## YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

I have received some follow-ups on 115 Provost Company RMP. The first was from Steve Ketteringham who said, 'I was posted to 115 from HQ PM(A) on promotion to Sgt in Oct 78. The company was located in Vittoria barracks, Werl, not Victoria as stated in the newsletter; a lot of people got the name wrong. I was posted on the understanding of being a Platoon Sgt, however I was told on my second day to be the clerk for the DAPM, Maj Colin Watkins, at HQ 3 Div for 2 weeks. On my return to the company I was made the chief clerk, a position I held for 2 years. The OC on my arrival was Maj Nick Crew, the RSM was WO1 Brian Stopforth and the CSM was WO2 Gerry Partridge. This all changed a few months later to Major Bill Mirehouse, WO1 Gerry Partridge and WO2 Eddie Monks.

The barracks was just for RMP, a detachment of SIB and a small LAD. There was a football field, parade ground, Sgts Mess, Cpls Mess. It has to be the best barracks that I ever served in. Some people of note that I remember were Capt John Mansergh, SSgts Wally Payne, Chris Leslie, Trevor Lungley and Sgt Alec Forman. The RMP BAOR Training school was also located there with WO2 John Masek in charge. BFBS/SSCV TV arrived and were accommodated in half of the WRAC accommodation and British TV shows were broadcast for BFG.

There was one notable exercise during my time which deployed the company on Exercise Crusader 80. It involved the 82<sup>nd</sup> US Airborne Division dropping by parachute into northern Germany; the biggest airdrop since Arnhem and a fantastic spectacle to see. During my time there I was one of the luckiest chief clerks when the RSM could not spare a Sgt for a BATUS tour, so I got it; and six great weeks they were too. I have lots of stories about 115 but that would make this far too long. In Apr 81 I was promoted and posted to Aldershot.

Major Andrew Banks RACMP also contacted me about 115 Provost Company and had the following to say, 'You asked for something further on 115 Pro Coy 1 RMP. I can add the following: Op TELIC XI. The initial deployed OC was Maj Phil Packer (later MBE; services to charity for his outstanding work post injury) who was injured during a rocket attack on the COB [Basra] early in the tour. He was CASEVAC'd out of Theatre. As the 2IC of 1RMP at the time, I had the privilege of being deployed as the OC replacement for the remaining period of the tour (four months or so). I returned to my role as Regtl 2IC at the end of the tour; I was the parade commander when the Op TELIC Medals were presented by PM(A).

During the tour, the OC rear party back in Osnabruck was an superb chap called Capt (later Major) Grant Walters. An outstanding officer, he later went on to command the Close Protection Unit; sadly - for the Corps - he departed to Civvy Street shortly after leaving Longmoor.

I placed a copy of the Op TELIC XI 15 Pro Coy tour photo in the Corps Museum; you may care to see it; I also gave the Corps Museum the final plaque produced by the Coy upon disbandment. [Tour photo was taken by Sgt Nesbit RLC - formerly a Cpl in the RMP (one of my trainees at RMPTS); he was with me in the AMF(L) during our deployment to Albania in 1999 (as a LCpl). Some years later, as a SSgt, he won the Army Photographer of the Year award. Think he is still serving' *Ed: Major Banks is currently 2IC 1 MP Bn RACMP*

-ooOoo-

Most of my newsletters receive a comment from Jim McIntosh who always manages to add a snippet of information to what has been written. His latest comments are, 'The item re Bob Esson

reminded me of my first time in Hong Kong (circa 1968-71) when, together with Dave Cooper and Wally Payne, I was fortunate enough to play for the Army and a couple of civilian clubs in the Hong Kong 1st Division, a professional football league. Bob Esson, then RSM of Hong Kong Dog Company RMP, was one of the top, and most respected, referees in the Colony at the time and we certainly never received any special treatment when he was in charge of a match! During my second tour (circa 1981-83), I also refereed in that league so this might be a unique double for the Corps.'

-ooOoo-

Wendy Bromwich sent in the photograph on the right which was taken at Catterick Camp in 1960. Wendy said, 'Are you able to help here? Left to right is June Butcher, June Shell, the lady on the top is unknown and on the right is Wendy Forsyth. I think it was taken just before we went to London to attend the wedding of Princess Margaret. Can anyone identify the lady sat on the bonnet of the vehicle?'



-ooOoo-

David Hartley sent in the photograph below. He said, 'In the back seat is the most ironic one, pretending to use the radio. He is Norman (Geordie) Morse. The PR boys did not know his name, and missed an



opportunity to connect Morse with the radio. In the passenger seat is Johnny (Grunty) Grinnell; his father was Birmingham Chief Constable. Johnny later, so I heard, did some publicity photos for that force. In the driver's seat is Dave Toulmin (a grand Yorkshire lad). Now, I know it is a long shot, but, if any of their families can be reached by your newsletter, I will send you the photo, and you can pass it on to the first one, or perhaps make copies in case there are more than one.' Ed: I will see what I can do.

-ooOoo-

I had to do a little detective work to find out who sent me the following information as I had lost some information as to the sender. It turned out to be Ken Chamberlain who confirmed he was the originator and also was kind enough to resend the photographs. Ken said, 'Looking through my collection I came across these two that brought back memories. The first was taken in the middle of 1953 and that part of 355 Squad selected for motor cycle training at Warburg Barracks Aldershot. I remember marching there from Inkerman Barracks but can anyone remember if we completed this march in FSMO? Ed: That is Full Service Marching Order for the younger element. The first photograph below is the members of the Squad that were designated to train on motor cycles, I am at the far left on



the back row. The second photograph was taken at Southhill Barracks, Chatham with 192 Pro. Coy RMP.

The powers that be decided we should enter a team in the 1955 A.C.U National Rally. The idea was you started out a given point, travelling here, there and everywhere clocking in at various points. The one with the most clock-ins won. A couple of us finished up in the West Country. My 500cc side valve BSA decided it didn't want to continue. We both retired and were

given B & B at an RAF station. Next day as I returned to Chatham as a pillion passenger which was not a comfortable experience. Then I returned the following day in a 15cwt to collect the bike and return home again. No motorways in those days! There must be a lot of memories of the 500 BSA.



-ooOoo-

During the latter part of 2016 I had the pleasure of meeting Ralph Mason who formerly served with 105 Provost Company RMP. He recently sent a number of items which are now safely tucked away for posterity at the Corps Museum. My immediate interest was drawn to a number of cinema programmes and some



are shown above. It took me back to the days of the SKC, when life was so different from the fast lane that everyone is in these days. The excitement and banter when the projector broke down or the film snapped. None of that digital stuff then. It certainly looks as if there was a good selection of films for the troops in Vienna.

Fix Movie News showing every Sunday to Wednesday - Pathé News showing every Thursday to Saturday.

Friday and Saturday 7.15, 9.15	Miss de Beaufort and Richard Barker in Douglas Mackay's <b>"MY COUSIN RACHEL"</b>	Sunday and Monday 8.15, 10.15	John Pottleton and Greta Norder in <b>"DECAMERON NIGHTS"</b> The world's most fabulous tale of love Colour by Technicolor
Tuesday and Wednesday 7.15, 9.15	Walter Catlett in "The Prisoner of Zenda" <b>"THE PRISONER OF ZENDA"</b> Starring Maurice Godwin, Deborah Kerr, James Mason	Tuesday and Wednesday 8.15, 10.15	Audie Murphy and Gene Stone in <b>"TEXAS KID - OUTLAW"</b> The true range story of Billy the Kid Colour by Technicolor
Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7.15, 9.15	Gene Clark and Kathleen Ryan in <b>"THE GAMBLER AND THE LADY"</b> <b>"SKYLINER"</b>	Thursday 7.15, 9.15, 11.15	Jean Peters - Leda Jordan - Greta Norder in <b>"ANNE OF THE INDIES"</b> Colour by Technicolor
Friday and Saturday 7.15, 9.15	Richard Widmark and Jeffrey Hunter in <b>"RED SKIES OF MONTANA"</b> Colour by Technicolor	Friday and Saturday 7.15, 9.15	Charles Hahn - Maria Faren - Marisa Sotgiu in <b>"THE MAN WHO WISHED THINGS WERE DIFFERENT"</b> Colour by Technicolor
Sunday and Monday 8.15, 10.15	Robert Williams, Helen Warner, Walter Fitzgerald in <b>"THE ONE - PIECE BATHING SUIT"</b> The life story of the famous American swimmer - James Robertson - Colour by Technicolor	Tuesday and Wednesday 8.15, 10.15	Bob Hope and Barbara Carroll in <b>"MY FAVOURITE BLONDE"</b> with Peggy Lee, Peggy Lee
Tuesday and Wednesday 7.15, 9.15	Frank Ryska and Barbara O'Hara in <b>"AGAINST ALL FLAGS"</b> Fascinating adventure story of Tracy in Montenegro S & S U	Thursday 8.15, 10.15, 12.15	John Eric - Elizabeth Sanders - Rex Burgin in <b>"THE LONG MEMORY"</b> What happened when a married man married... again!
Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7.15, 9.15	Carolee Carr and Michael Barkley in <b>"DOWN AMONG THE 'N' MEN"</b> S & S U	Friday and Saturday 8.15, 10.15	Stella Das - Hans Molester - S. Z. Sakal in <b>"THE LULLABY OF BROADWAY"</b> Colour by Technicolor
Friday and Saturday 7.15, 9.15	Phyllis Calvert and James Stewart in <b>"THE NET"</b> Homes revolves in a world of suspenseful thrills	Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8.15, 10.15	Feature stories by THREE days! CHARLES CHAPLIN'S <b>"THE TRAMP"</b> An inspiring story of love, laughter and tears! re-starring Gene Wynn and Reginald Denny

NOTE: The Programme is subject to alterations.

Print of Admission: Circle 23 - Star and Comet Book 15 - Free Sale 1-

U.S. - M.P.C.'s ACCEPTED AT THE LONDON OFFICE.

ADVANCED BOOKINGS: Seats may be booked by Phone Service to 3.30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Reserved TELEPHONE 2 32-507  
Bookings may be done at 10 Minutes before the performance commences.  
Performance continues nightly at 8.15 P.M.



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Google some of the film titles – some fantastic posters from that era.



Above is a photograph of Squad 225 and Ralph Mason is seated on the right.

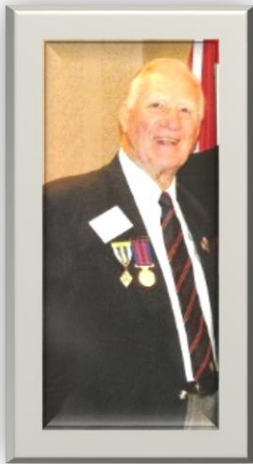
## **116 PROVOST COMPANY CMP**

Sadly when I looked for 116 Provost Company CMP in the archives at the Museum I found zilch. I can confirm that such a company existed during the Second World War period and I am guessing that it would have been disbanded at the end of hostilities, but that is just my opinion. I am also aware that there was a 116 (RM) Infantry Brigade Provost Section which was also shown to have existed but I have not managed, at this stage, to find any other information.

## **116 PROVOST COMPANY RMP (V)**

The Company was formed from 1 Corps Traffic Control Company RMP (TA) in the latter part of 1973. The OC was Major TB Kelly TD RMP (V) and the Regimental Sergeant Major was Warrant Officer Class 1 F Ashton RMP (V). Those of you that purchase the Corps Journal will know that the Company still exists and plays its part in today's Corps concept. I am now waiting for some avid reader to supply me with an update on 116.

## **RMP ASSOCIATION NEWS**



It is not often that I have the pleasure to announce that a member of the Association reaches their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. It has been achieved by Danny Mander, a member of the North America Branch, hit the 'ton' on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. I will just offer congratulations as I know further and more details reports are to be written in other quarters.

## **DEATHS**

### **BEASLEY**

Former 22109373 Donald Ivan Beasley passed away on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017. He was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 1930 and completed his National Service in Germany from 1948 until 1950. Don joined South Yorkshire Branch RMPA in 1990. He served as Branch Chairman from 1995 to 1999. He continued to be an active member of the branch until ill health in 2011 kept him from meetings.

### **HEPBURN**

Former 24031961 Corporal William "Bill" Hepburn has died aged 70 in his home town of Stoke-on-Trent on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Bill enlisted into the Corps in July 1965 and completed his training in 71 Squad at Chichester. He was then posted to 2 Division Provost Unit, Osnabruck where he soon became a popular member of the unit. Smart, softly spoken, with a bright cheery smile and an imposing air of quiet authority made him a first class military policeman. He was also a talented footballer and a pivotal member of the combined 2 Division /12 Brigade Provost Units that lifted the Stanley Cup in the 1967/68 season. He went on to serve with 170 Provost Company, Edinburgh before he took the decision to leave the army and seek his fortune in Civvy Street. He joined the Michelin Tyre Company in Stoke as a security officer but his talents saw him swiftly promoted into distribution management until he retired after 38 years' service. Bill was dogged by ill health in recent years but managed to attend many reunions nevertheless including a very brief visit to see old friends at the 2 Division/12 Brigade reunion in Chester in 2016. An endearing, genuine and generous family man who will be fondly remembered by all who knew and served with him.

-ooOoo-

As most of you are aware Joy and I have moved to a new abode slightly inland at Waterlooville. It is reputed that the name derived from a public house that stood at the centre of the village, then known as Wait Lane End. This is where stage coach horses waited to change places with the team that pulled the coach up and over Portsdown Hill. The pub had been named *Heroes of Waterloo* because, on its opening day, in 1815, soldiers who had just disembarked at Portsmouth, returning from the Battle of Waterloo decided to stop there and celebrate their victory and, according to local legend,

many of them settled there. There is no proof of this assertion. The pub was thereafter renamed in their honour and the area around the pub became known as Waterlooville.

The original "Heroes" pub was at a crossroads near the main bus-stop. It was demolished in 1966 and replaced with a bank; a new pub took the same name and is located at the northern end of the shopping precinct. I am sure I will be paying it a visit in the not too distant future; could become TAC HQ.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that send messages in one form another in relation to the move, they were very much appreciated. Please note my new home telephone number below.

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