



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE OLD COMRADES LINK UP NEWSLETTER #117, MARCH 2017



YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

Wally Payne was quick to off the mark and said, 'I see that I get two mentions in the latest newsletter, which, combined with Leicester City's long-awaited win on Monday night (*Against Liverpool*), have served to raise my sciatica affected spirits somewhat. I have sent a copy of a page from my football scrapbooks from Hong Kong, showing Jim McIntosh in action. You might be able to either print it in the next issue, of perhaps forward it to Jim McIntosh in case he has never seen the cutting from the South China Morning Post. I remember the match well, as we grabbed a draw away to the Champions.'



-ooOoo-

Tanky Walker commented on a previous article and said, 'The mention of Vittoria Bks in Werl brought back memories. I was stationed at 4 Det (Dortmund) 101 Army Pro Coy, in 1967. At this time Werl, Hemer & Soest were all the responsibility of the Canadians. We spent many hours socialising with CFMP both at our mess and at theirs, also during investigations etc. Their barracks, as described by Steve Ketteringham, were indeed the best you could get and would put ours to shame. In later years when stationed with 247 Berlin Pro Coy, we would head down to Werl to take part in Ex Tricap (do they still have it I wonder?). An excellent weekend of competition between the Companies, culminating in

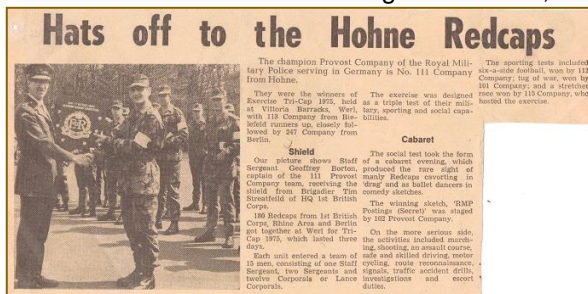
the evening cabaret acts, some of which made terrific fun of the senior RMP officers. Vittoria & Albuhera Bks, feature on You Tube and well worth looking at. *Ed: I recall various trips from Bielefeld to the Maple Leaf Store in Soest for a bit of shopping. My lingering memory is the tins of baked beans, I have not found any brand to match them.*

-ooOoo-

Barrie Morris came to the rescue once again and was able to supply some details about 116 Provost Company CMP. The information comes from the CMP Order of Battle. In April 1943 the Company was part of GHQ MEF Palestine. A month later it was part of the 8th Army. January 1944 saw the Company in 3 Corps GHQ British Troops Egypt but by September of the same year was with Force 140, Athens. The War Diaries for this Company had an entry in 1946 but nothing shown after this date.

-ooOoo-

Geoff Wilkins made the following contribution, 'I hope that you have finished unpacking all those MFO



boxes. I have not subscribed to the Corps Journal for more than 25 years and I was surprised the other day when somebody posted a copy of last December's issue through my



letterbox. I read it with interest and was surprised how much has changed in the Corps since my days. I concluded that I was happy to have served in the 70s and 80s when there were still lots of overseas postings, especially in BAOR. While looking through the RMPA Section, I spotted a photo of Percy Powell looking resplendent in his Mayoral robes. I believe Percy was stationed at Hohne when I was a Cpl in Verden Det, 111 Pro Coy. I also went into local politics after leaving the Corps and was an Independent Town Councillor for 17 years and was a Town Mayor in 1996/7. Photo attached of me in my Mayoral robes with my daughter Heather, who was my Mayoress. I wonder how many other former Corps colleagues swapped their red caps for red robes? While on the subject of 111 Pro Coy, while searching through some old photo's the other day, I came across the attached newspaper cutting from 1975, when 111 Pro Coy won "Exercise Tri-Cap" in BAOR. I was a member of that winning team and I thought that seeing the article may bring back memories from 42 years ago to some of your readers. As well as Geoff Borton, shown receiving the winners' trophy, I can recall that Pete Hunt, Steve Highton, Harry Wragg, Dai Evans and the late George Aitken were all members of the winning team. Happy memories and I just wish I could still do the things I did then.' *Ed: Sorry I had to squeeze the photographs in, they just did not want to be separated and I have no idea why.*

-ooOoo-



It was not long before Jim McIntosh responded to the press cutting sent to me by Wally Payne and featured above. Jim sent in a photograph of the somewhat triumphant RMP team in Hong Kong some forty-five years ago. To the best of Jim's recollection we have from left to right at the rear: Jim (surname unknown), Brian Jones, Jack Scadding, Lee Hui, Dave Cooper, Mick Holes and Tom Gardiner. Kneeling: Wally Payne, Pete Nicholl, Jim McIntosh, Wong Siu Ming, Taffy Davies and Tse Fo Tse. Jim suggested doing a sports special so let me be having your sporting pics. The ones when shorts were shorts and cricketers played in white.

-ooOoo-

Jack Garthwaite had his grey matter stirred by the last edition. He said, 'Thanks for all the work you put into the newsletters. I notice in the latest an item put in by Ken Chamberlain of 192 Coy and I wonder if you could forward my best wishes to him. He may not remember me as I was only there for about 5 or 6 months before going to 17th Gurkha Div Malay but have never forgot some of the guys there for their humour, Ken being one along with Alfie Oldfield and Spider Hale, I think that

was his name; it was a good crowd, mind you as it was elsewhere.' Ed: By now Jack's message has been sent to Ken and the proof of that is in a message received from Ken below.

'Thank you so much for forwarding Jack's message, as the say the name rings a bell, but I can't put a face to it...It is really nice to be remembered like that. Alfie Oldfield, now there's a name from the distant past. He came from Peckham if I remember and to say the least he was a character. I often wonder what happened to him. I am forwarding a photo of 192 Pro Coy taken in the summer of 55. We were entertaining a group of Reservists. They are not wearing red tops which I know is a bit hard to tell in a black and white photo. Yours truly in the second from the front row 5th from the left. At 6' 1" I didn't realise how short I was.'



-ooOoo-

Alec Hayton, whilst having a little clear out of the drawer in his desk came across the following photograph which shows members of 12 Infantry Brigade Provost Unit RMP, in Osnabruck



in 1963. The occasion was the Annual Inspection and the inspecting officer was the PM BAOR Colonel George Pillitz. I did spot one face and that was Pete Hares, rear row centre who was posted to Osnabruck from Gibraltar.

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Ralph mason corrected an error when I mentioned his squad in the last newsletter, it was 255 and not 225. Of course I blame it on the computer.

-ooOoo-

If any of you keen eyed readers are thinking that I have forgotten to mention anything about 117 Provost Company well I have not forgotten but just cannot at this juncture find any reference to such a company.

ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION



Bob Potts, Derby Branch forwarded the following message, 'I attended the Snowdrop parade today. It was well supported with a total of 10 members of the Association on parade. Four Association standards including the national standard were paraded. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the PM(A) at both the RAFP and RMP plots. A total of 101 personnel paraded in bright sunshine followed by a buffet lunch at the RBL Alrewas. The DPM (RAF) on behalf of the PM (RAF) thanked all ranks past and present of the RMP, for their support and wished them well for the future.'

Derby Branch are organising the luncheon following the RMP Annual Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum on the 3rd June. Instructions have been sent to all branches but if you do require details then please contact Kathryn Potts at Kathryn.Potts2@btinternet.com.

CAN YOU HELP

Mrs Joan Harrison is currently helping her husband, Frank, with his memoirs. There is a need for more information to make his service story more complete and she is hoping some of his old RMP pals and comrades will contact her with some stories. Frank joined the RMP at Inkerman Barracks as a Regular Soldier in March 1954 and trained in 423 Squad under the watchful eye of Sergeant Jack Sigley. Here is Frank's story so far "After Passing-Out he was posted to MELF and allowed three weeks Home Leave. After his leave was over he returned to Inkerman and was taken by coach to a Transit Camp in the Underground Complex beneath Goodge Street in Central London, before flying out from Blackbushe airport on Sunday July 4th 1954 in a Lancaster Bomber Troop Carrier to Egypt. It landed at Fayid RAF base at 10 pm, where they stayed overnight in tents. The next day, the Military Police transported him and others in a 1 ton Bedfordshire truck to Moascar, the garrison in the city of Ismailia, on Lake Timsah, roughly halfway between Port Said in the north and Suez in the south. From Moascar, on the same day, he was quickly moved on to El Kirsh, where he spent a week undergoing more training with 1 Dog Company. Then it was off to Geneifa from 20th September 1954 to 2nd October 1954 for a course in dog handling and to receive his sable and brown coloured Alsatian dog named Tam. From Geneifa he returned back to Headquarters at El Kirsh with Tam, and spent two weeks there patrolling the NAAFI warehouses and an Ordnance Depot based on a little island in Lake Timsah. After El-Kirsh he served at Roundabout Camp in Fayid and was there over Xmas 1954 patrolling the RAF Receiver Station, which was quite boring. Early 1955 he moved to Geneifa for 3 months.

Then a three month posting in the summer of 1955 to Abu Sultan. Then it was back to El-Kirsh, then he moved to Port Said for a spell in 1955 where he was engaged in policing the arrival of ships bringing in food, supplies and also families of serving troops. There was a small Maintenance Engineers Camp close to the harbour, and one day the Engineers approached him with a request. The Engineers on the base had adopted a wild stray dog which they fed from scraps from the Mess. The dog had the freedom of the base, but one day it was run over by a truck, and lay there howling with pain with a broken back. Frank was on duty so the Engineers asked his advice, and then asked him to shoot it as there were no facilities available to treat it. So as requested he put the dog out of its misery. He then wrote his incident report as to why he had used three bullets. Later, after he had moved on to Abu Sultan he was interviewed by Company Sergeant Major Bottom who travelled down from El-Kirsh to question him. The CSM asked him, "How do you know it was not a Pedigree dog?" to

which he replied, "Sir, I would hope that I could tell the difference between a wild piyard dog and a pedigree dog. Its back was broken due to being hit and run over by a lorry. It was in terrible pain and there was no alternative". He was thanked for his action.

From Abu Sultan he moved to Suez in late 1955 and remembers an incident when a break-in happened at the Royal Engineers Depot. A RMP NCO, Reg Quirk, was on patrol when he discovered a group of Egyptians inside the compound stealing engineering parts, so he confronted them and let his dog loose. His dog brought one of the Egyptians down, but the dog was stabbed. Reg marched the Egyptian back to the Guard Room, and his dog limped back with him. So the alarm was sounded and all RMP were called out. They rounded up two Egyptians up and took them in for questioning, and locked them in cages, but Reg said that there were at least six Egyptians involved originally. Reg's dog later died. Some of the Engineers wanted to 'beat-up' the Egyptians, but the military police moved the soldiers away. In 1955 our man moved on to Tel-el Kebir, where he spent Christmas. In January of 1956 he returned to El Kirch and handed Tam back to the Veterinary Corps. He then moved to Moascar but the Garrison was gradually closed and Frank and George Baldwin were the last two military policemen to leave. Tam was transferred to Cyprus in February 1956 and Frank was transported up to Port Said and caught the troopship *Empire Ken* which sailed to Tripoli via Malta."

Frank remembers a number of names from his time and they are, George Baldwin (deceased), Taffy Kenwood, Neville Hammond, Lofty Quarterman, Scott King, Ginger Thornton, Reg Quirk and someone called Bill who had two boxer dogs.



Mrs Harrison sent a photo taken of the squad and provided the following names: Rear Row: A Tomsett, J Gaunt, DH Toft, G Doulton, D Lewis, DJ Mauri and George Watts. Middle Row: A Martin, A Brown, N Hammond, J Slope, R Taylor, CH Johnson, A Barber and Frank Harrison. Front Row: D Pell, T Dale, George Baldwin, K Willis, Sgt Jack Sigley, F Munsey, PJ Shaw, H Teed and J Hogg. If anyone can provide any information please contact me.

DEATHS

CARMICHAEL

Former 23210674 Corporal Robert Carmichael, passed away on the 2nd March 2017 at the age of 81 years. He trained at Woking in Squad 445 in 1954 and went on to serve for six years with 165 Provost Company, 170 Provost Company and with 4 Dog Company in Hong Kong. He was medically discharged in 1960. Bob, a staunch member of Scotland Central Branch, was a very keen golfer in his younger days but loved to socialise in his latter days at his Golf Club. He was very good at writing poetry and spent many an hour reading the works of Rabbin Burns. He had many stories to tell of his time in the Corps but one particular one was about his training at 4 Dog Unit of his boxer dog called Haiko. He taught Haiko to salute whenever he did. Haiko became a celebrity and Bob was often woken up after a night duty to hurriedly get dressed and show him off to visiting VIPs.

DAMEN

Former 22063369 Lance Corporal Denys Damen, aged 86 years, passed away on the 24th March 2017. He was a founding member of the Dorset Branch and completed his National Service with the Corps being stationed in Chatham and Dover. His funeral will take place on the 12th April 2017 at the Poole Crematorium commencing at 1100 hrs.

HAGGAR

Derek Leslie Hagger passed away on the 9th March 2017. He trained in Squad 581 in 1956 and went on to complete his National Service in Famagusta, Cyprus with 51 Brigade Provost Company RMP. Following his demob he joined the civilian police for a short period before emigrating to Australia where he took up a career in the electronics industry.

LAMBDEN

I received the following message from Peter Lambden. 'I am the brother of John who was in the RMP for some 20 years. He was 22361418 John William Lambden and served in many locations, namely Vienna, Austria, Malta, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Edinburgh, York and finally in London at the office in Old Scotland Yard where he finished as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the RMP. He was born on 23rd February 1932 at Reading and on being called up for his National Service made his way to the RMP. He decided to sign on and served for some 20 years. I have to tell you that he died on 31st December 2016 in Reading, his home town.'

MONTGOMERY

Former 22971541 Sergeant Thomas George Montgomery passed away on the 9th March 2017 at the Antrim Area Hospital. He transferred from the Royal Ulster Rifles in 1960 and left to join The Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1975.

SISMORE

Former 14345575 Sergeant Terrance Douglas Sismore (DoB 29th March 1924). Terry was enlisted into the Corps of Military Police in April 1944. He served with 59 Infantry Divisional Provost Company and took part in Operation OVERLORD landing on Gold Beach in June 1944. He was a traffic control motorcyclist, a roll he continued to undertake as the Division moved forwards to Germany. He also served with 108 Provost Company before finally completing his service as a Sergeant Instructor at the Military Police Training School Germany. Terry was awarded The French l'Ordre National de la d'Honneur in February 2016. His complete civilian working career was with Perkins Engines Peterborough where he was employed in several roles. He was a member of Peterborough Engineering Society, past president of Peterborough Probus and a founding member of Fenland and District RMPA. Terry passed away peaceful on 26th March after a long illness.

STOREY

Former Warrant Officer Class 1 Ian George Storey MBE passed away on the 19th March 2017 aged 74 years at Grimsby Hospital. Ian was in R2 Squad and Passed Out in May 1961. He went on to serve in a number of provost companies. His funeral is due to be held at Alford Crematorium, Lincolnshire on the 3rd April 2017 commencing at 1100 hrs.

ROWSELL

Former 19162793 Lance Corporal Raymond Roswell BEM died on the 2nd March 2017 aged 86 years. It is believed that he served between 1947 and 1949 and served in 200 Provost Company RMP, Singapore. He was apparent a good light heavy weight amateur boxer and a member of the Corps motor cycle display team. He was the village bobby in Bembridge, Isle of Wight and was involved in the community as a County Councillor and Deputy Leader in the Conservative Group. He also assisted youth organisations and was involved in forming the Isle of Wight Youth Concert Band which is still going strong, and for his work with the youth on the Island he was awarded the BEM.

MORLEY

Former 23075821 Lance Corporal Charles Morley died in December 2016 at Doncaster. Charlie trained in Squad 466 and completed his National Service at Inkerman Barrack, Woking working in the Quartermaster's Department. He served between 1955 and 1957.

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I have just finished reading a book by former 7685208 Warrant Officer Class 1 AL Bastone who served in the Corps of Military Police from 1939 to 1945. It was a simply written, interesting account of his service in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He served with a number of provost companies, primarily 105 and 200 Provost Company. I can only encourage anyone reading this to get their digits manipulating the keyboard and write your story before it is too late. Alas it is back to James Patterson for the next few evenings.

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