



## ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



#2 JUNE 2018

Dear colleagues,



Following the last newsletter I received a few more photographs which were taken at the Annual Reunion, Rotherham. Most of them are members of Depot Branch. Sorry I cannot enlarge them any further as it affects the definition. On the right we have Pauline and Alistair McKinnon who incidentally were recently married. On the left is the familiar face of 'Slim' Redfearn getting ready to tuck in to the dinner. Below right is Phill Hunt and Jenny Taplin. On the left is Dave and Jacqui Kempson (West Sussex Branch) and to round it all off below left shows Alistair McKinnon, John Fry, Dave Kempson and Phill Hunt taken on the morning of the Parade. *Please ensure that you forward photographs and on this occasion I have to thank Phill Hunt.*



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It was not long before many of us assembled once again, this time for the Annual RMP Church Service and Act of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. It is estimated that over 200 attended the event and we were blessed by extremely good weather and even the area around the RMP Statue was dry under foot - that

makes a welcome change. The gathered through consisted of serving and retired members with their friends and families. It was good to see three families of the fallen there too: the parents of Steve Boote and Mum of Nick Webster-Smith - both killed in Afghanistan and the parents of Si Miller - one of the 'RMP 6'. They were all made to feel very welcome. The photograph on the right is proof that we all made it in one piece, and in step from the Chapel to the RMP Plot and, if I may say so, looking rather smart.

Following the service and parade members were able to take lunch at the local Royal British Legion Club



The Pro SM WO1 (RSM) Marc Thomson AGC (RMP) decided that he would walk and run from Andover to the NMA to raise funds for the RMP Central Benevolent Fund. That is one way of doing it and he is to be congratulated on his gallant effort. There was another way of getting there and that was on a motor cycle and this year the RMP Bikers were there to support the event. Congratulations are to be



given to the Regimental Secretary who really does all the early planning, Derby Branch for the dedicated support they give and of course to all of you that took the

time to pay your respects and remember those that have fallen before us.

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Mike Clark, Birmingham Central Branch and amongst other topics he said, "Having recently been elected to the dizzy heights of Branch Chairman I notice that I have a big pair of boots to fill as our departing Chairman, Tony Bowdler was in post for 26 years. Having voluntarily stood down he is now an active backbencher." *Ed: That must be some kind of record - unless someone knows otherwise. Congratulation Mike and well done Tony.*

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I received the following information from Northern Ireland Branch. "Brian Roberts has been a long serving member of the Not Forgotten Association, in various committee posts over the years. He was recently presented with the Presidents Certificate for his long service to that association, by James Hamilton KG, the Duke of Abercorn. Also in the photo is Mr John Davies the NI Chairman of the Association. In addition Brian has been a long standing member of the RMP Association Northern Ireland Branch and at present is Welfare Officer for the Branch. A thoroughly deserved award."

Brian Griffiths, Western Australia branch contacted me and said, 'Just a quick courtesy call to pass on a photo of NSW country member Taff Sims BEM at their local ANZAC Day commemorative event (25 April 2018). In case you would like to do a small segment of interest for the *Old Comrades Linkup*, here are some service facts as Taff would be well known amongst many former RMP members: 23536636 Sgt Anthony Thomas Sims BEM. Looking through his old branch membership application form, Taff records his service in many places from 1963 to 1978. I know Taff also spent some time in London District – I think also as a dog handler. I knew Taff and his lovely wife Maggie (deceased) back in Berlin 1971-73 where they were always the life and soul of the Cpls Mess. Taff spent a long time as our barman and had access to a 'gorilla suit' which he often made an appearance in when we had Aussie tours visiting the Mess. When he was not pulling pints in the Cpls Mess, Taff was also an excellent rugby player and went on to become a referee. Oh, happy days!'



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Depot Branch was busy over the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June assisting the Corps Museum during the Southwick Village Revival Weekend. During that time over 900 visitors came to see the D - day Map Room and the Museum. This has become an annual event which is growing annually and involves a great deal of work by the Commandant and Staff of the Defence School of Policing and Guarding (Depot to you old ones), the museum staff and volunteers from the Branch who cannot resist a sausage and or bacon roll. In the photograph on the left is Robin Lacey, Colin Landreth and yours truly. Also involved and not photographed: Donna Pickett, Paul Rayner and Jack Duncan. As you can see from the photograph the Vehicle Restoration Group were also present.

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As I said in the previous issue I wanted more space to feature the work and activities of the Association and recently Western Australia Branch sent in the usual selection of sunshine kissed photographs taken at a recent function.





## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018, opening of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.  
Commencing at 1030 hrs.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Provost (RMP/MPS) Field of remembrance Service, Westminster  
Abbey commencing at 1050 hrs.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Royal British Legion Cenotaph Parade.

North American Branch 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion - 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018, St. Johns, Newfoundland.

10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Annual Reunion at Stretton, near Warrington hosted by Cheshire and North  
Wales branch.

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

If you require further details please contact me.

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