



# ROYAL MILITARY POLICE OLD COMRADES LINK UP NEWSLETTER #129 MARCH 2018



## NEW CONTACTS



### **ROWLEY**

Lieutenant Colonel Nick Rowley began his long career in the Corps in May 1977. He went on to serve in 160, 176 and 178 Provost Companies. It is obvious that his investigative talents were spotted and he went on to serve with the Special Investigation Branch in Dusseldorf, Tidworth, Belize, Headquarters SIB, Dhekelia, Armagh, Londonderry, Hohn, Northern Ireland and ended his career as Commanding Officer SIB RMP in Bulford. He also served at HQ PM(A), D&TE and with HQ NATO Multi National, Bosnia Herzegovina.

## YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

I just knew that I would get some response when I said "Trust you are well and warm" when I sent out the previous edition. Doug Thorn said, 'Re keeping well and warm. In outer West of Sydney our temps for the past two months have daily varied between 38c to 42c. Autumn has now arrived at last. Enjoy your newsletters and all the best - Keep Warm.' Trevor Margetson also reminded me of the heat in Adelaide where he was visiting his daughter.

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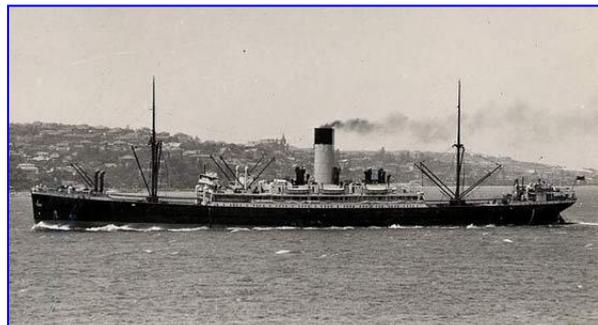
Dave Peet brought me up to speed on Jim McCready whose death I reported in the previous edition but sadly I had little information. Dave said, 'Following an item on good old Facebook when Jim actually passed away, I did reply to that entry just to confirm Jim's identity. As you rightly said, Jim did transfer from the Irish Guards to the Corps and he was already a qualified Guards Para. In his own words, the situation at that time in 1958 within his Regiment was the thought of spending the days marching forwards and backwards in front of Buckingham Palace did not appeal so he opted for a change and came to us. He arrived at Inkerman Barracks in the summer of 1958 and did his RMP Training in 701 Squad passing out with the other two squads of that Intake comprising 699 and 700 Squads in November 1958, yours truly being a member of 700 Squad.' *Ed: Thank you Dave for filling in a few gaps.*

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'Hi Bob, Chris Reed here. Enjoyed your latest newsletter but was a little upset to read the bit about Maj Gen Kendrew and his alleged comments to the Sketch newspaper. Surely if he did make a statement it would have had much more content than this. With great respect to LCpl Bell he did in fact lose his life in this incident. I was serving in the C in C's Escort Section at Paramali near Episkopi when this happened. Our CSM (Hawkins) summoned us all to the mess to inform us of the tragic death of LCpl Bell. As I remember it we were told that LCpl Bell was escorting Maj Gen Kendrew to Nicosia airport as he had completed his tour in Cyprus. This was to be LCpl Bell's final escort duty. He should have already been demobbed but in loyalty to Maj Gen Kendrew he wanted to be there when he left the Island. There is a suggestion that the Maj Gen had offered him a seat on his plane back home (instead of a troop ship) due to his loyal escort services.'

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In the last edition the troopships *Ascanius* and *Georgic* were mentioned in a piece by Arthur Elliott. The *Ascanius* was launched on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1910, was built in Belfast by Workman Clarke for the Blue Funnel Line. She made her maiden voyage on the 30<sup>th</sup> December from Glasgow. She served as a troopship with the Australian Expeditionary Force in 1914. 1917 saw the ship taken over under the 'Liner



Requisition Scheme' returning to her owners in 1920 where she resumed her sailings from Glasgow to Brisbane via Liverpool. In 1922 she was refitted and altered in 1926 to carry just over 100 less than at her launch. She was requisitioned as a troopship again in 1940, but on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1944 she limped into Liverpool after being torpedoed in the English Channel and was repaired by Cammell Laird. After the war she was sailing in the Mediterranean until 1949 when she was sold and was renamed the San Giovannino with the intention of using her to carry emigrants from Italy to Australia but she was laid up before this could commence. Finally she was scrapped and broken up in 1952.

The Georgic was launched on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1931, a sister ship to the popular Britannic owned by the White Star line. Her maiden voyage took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1932. However, in 1934 White Star Line having been forced by the Government to merge with Cunard she was requisitioned in 1941. And said in the convoy that hunted and sank the battleship Bismarck. Virtually unprotected during this battle, the ship managed to reach her destination in the Gulf of Suez. Whilst there she was spotted and bombed by German aircraft. Two direct hits on the stern caused a fire which reached the fuel and ammunition stored there causing an explosion. Beached and evacuated she was left to burn out. Later her hull was plugged and she was raised and towed to a port in the Sudan where she was made more seaworthy in order to reach Bombay for further repairs. Leaving Bombay for Belfast via Liverpool she underwent a further refit and returned to trooping in the Middle East until 1948. She was refitted for civilian use, and whilst in Cunard's service she continued in White Star livery and completed sailings between Southampton and New York with her final voyage being on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1954. She was for sale in 1955 and was chartered by the Australian Government. The last ever completed voyage was carrying 800 troops between Hong Kong and Liverpool. She was then laid up and eventually sold for scrap in 1956. She was the last of the White Star Line ships.



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I periodically receive a message from David Leigh-Howarth and the latest one caught my eye as it included a photograph of him and his wife Carol. I discovered that the photograph was taken at Herdade dos Grous (Estate of the Cranes) which is a vineyard estate in Albernoa near Beja, central Alentejo, Portugal. David said they have spent Christmas there a couple of times and it is comparatively inexpensive all the year round, especially so in the winter when they do 3/4 night breaks Christmas and New Year. Website is: [www.herdade-dos-grous.com](http://www.herdade-dos-grous.com). Wine is excellent and the food great. David said that the photograph was taken on a church balcony that they visited whilst on a bird sighting expedition. I think I could do with a little sunshine but I am more than happy to feature your holiday snaps so let me know where you have been of late.

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In the previous edition Arthur Elliott mentioned India and in particular a military barracks which was formerly a military prison. Dan Cowley contacted me and sent in a photograph of a post card of the said barracks and the name is "Trimulgherry" and not as quoted in the last edition. Apparently it was a prison for British and Indian Other Ranks.



*Ed: Thanks Dan for putting us straight. Just loved the tinted post card, how times have changed. Out of interest "Trimulgherry" is the anglicised name for "Tirumalagiri", a major suburb of Secunderabad. Unfortunately for Arthur they did not have McDonalds and KFC in his day.*

The photograph on the right is of the Trimulgherry Entrenchment where British troops were stationed. Apparently Sir Winston Churchill was stationed in the area during the 1890s.



### **ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION**

The Royal Airforce Police annual "Snowdrop" parade took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> March at the National Memorial Arboretum. Four Royal Military Police Association Branch Standards and six other members represented the Corps and the Association. Regrettably the Corps Plot was flooded and could not be reached. During the parade a wreath was laid on behalf of the PM(A) and all ranks past and present. The parade was followed by a buffet lunch at the RBL Areas. Thanks are extended to Bob Potts who co-ordinates the event on behalf of the Association.



Just a gentle reminder that this year's Annual Reunion is taking place in Rotherham over the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May. If you still have not reserved your place then I suggest you get a wiggle on. Anyone wanting full details can contact me.

### **CAN YOU HELP**

Barry Wrangmore is trying to get in touch with Ken MacFadzean who he worked with at Rheindahlen in the 60's. Barry said that any help would be appreciated.

Mike Brown send in the following message. 'I recently got in contact with Terry Messer who I served with in Chester. We were reminiscing about those members of the Corps that we had served with in common. I served at 165 Pro Coy, NI, 3 Div, !6 Para Bde, SHAPE and then transferred to the Int Corps. During the reminiscing the name of my Squad Instructor arose and he was Tony Hodsman and I would like to get in touch with him if possible. I live in Bucharest, Romania and even using the net is difficult. It would be nice to know that Tony is thriving.

A Mr Bradbury, former member of the Parachute Regiment, is seeking the whereabouts of a "Chalky" White who was his neighbour in Williams Park, Aldershot between 1982 and 1984. The only other information given is that "Chalky" was over six feet in height whereas his wife was rather shorter at under five feet. Any relevant information to me please.

### **NOTICES AND INFORMATION**

The following announcement was issued by the Regimental Secretary. 'I have the honour to announce that the winner of the 'Provost 500 Sword', which is awarded annually year to the Junior Non-Commissioned Officers assessed to have demonstrated excellence in all aspects of a Royal Military Police role in the previous year is:

25225510 Corporal D Cross, who is serving currently with the Close Protection Unit, Specialist Operations Regiment.

The prize, a miniature replica Tudor-period sword desk letter opener made by Pooley Sword(s), together with a framed certificate, will be presented to Corporal Cross by the Provost Marshal at the Warrant Officer (Class 1) Convention at Ampert House on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. The full-sized sword remains on permanent display in the Museum. The award will be 'gazetted' in the August edition of the RMP Journal.'

I have the honour to announce that the winner of the '*Provost Marshal's Golden Whistle and Chain*' who was assessed to have been the best student performing on an Initial Military Police Course held at the Defence School of Policing and Guarding in the 2017/18 Training Year is:

30260137 Lance-Corporal D Stephenson, now serving with 156 Provost Company, 4 Regiment RMP.

The prize – a very attractive gold-plated police whistle and chain from J Hudson & Son, engraved appropriately with the Junior Non-Commissioned Officer's details and that of the award, together with a framed certificate, will be presented to Lance-Corporal Stephenson at an appropriate Regimental event in the new future. The award will be 'gazetted' in the August edition of the RMP Journal.

*Ed: Sincere congratulations are extended to Corporal Cross and Lance-Corporal Stephenson.*

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Eddie Ferguson sent in the following message. " A Singapore Reunion commemorating 60 years of service for RMP/RAVC/GMP members together with a special tribute to the late WO 1 G Brien BEM, to be held in Edinburgh on Saturday, 13 October 2018. Further details may be obtained from Eddie Ferguson email: [e.543ferg@gmail.com](mailto:e.543ferg@gmail.com) or tel: 01672851466"

### **CALLING RMP BIKERS**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Provost Motorcycle ride to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) will be held on Sat 2 Jun 18, this event will coincide with the RMP Service, Parade and Act of Remembrance held at the NMA. The ride is open to all serving, retired, family and friends of the RMP/ MPS/ MPGS. Last year's event attracted over 50 riders, it is hoped we can double the riders for 2018.

Below are the routes and meeting points. If you require further information please contact [Hugh.Mcvey719@mod.uk](mailto:Hugh.Mcvey719@mod.uk)

#### **Route 1**

Ser	Meeting Time	Route	Location	Departure Time
1	0645 hrs	A31	Infinity Motorcycles, North Camp, Aldershot, GU14 6HG	0700 hrs
2	0800 hrs	M40 Jct 8a	Oxford M/way Svs, OX33 1LJ	0810 hrs
3	0900 hrs	M40 Jct 12 - 13	Warwick M/way Svs CV35 0AA	0915 hrs
4	0945 hrs	M42 Jct 4	Passing Jct 4 joining Route 3	0945 hrs
5	1020 hrs	M6 Toll T4 A5	McDonalds, Wall Island, Lichfield WS14 0QP	1040 hrs

#### **Route 2**

1	0850 hrs	M1 Jct 16 - 17	Watford Gap M/way Svs, Northampton NN6 7UZ	0900 hrs
2	0945 hrs	M6 Jct 3 - 3a	Corely M/way Svs, Coventry CV7 8NR	0955 hrs
3	1030 hrs	M6 Toll T4 A5	McDonalds Lichfield WS14 0QP	1040 hrs

#### **Route 3**

1	0830 hrs	M5 Jct 7 - 8	Strensham M/way Svs, Worcester, WR8 0BZ	0845 hrs
2	0935 hrs	M42 Jct 4	Bridge over M42 Join Route 1	0945 hrs
3	1020 hrs	M6 Toll T4 A5	McDonalds, Wall Island, Lichfield WS14 0QP	1040 hrs

#### **Route 4**

1	0810 hrs	M6 J27 - 28	Charnock Richard M/way Svs, Lancashire PR7 5LR	0820 hrs
2	0905 hrs	M6 J16 - 17	Sandbach M/way Svs, Cheshire, CW11 2FZ	0920 hrs
3	1020 hrs	M6 Toll T4 A5	McDonalds, Wall Island, Lichfield WS14 0QP	1040 hrs

#### **Route 5**

1	0750 hrs	A1 (M) Jct 46	Wetherby Moto Svs, LS22 5GT	0800 hrs
2	0935 hrs	M1 Jct 21 – 21a	Leicester Forest East M/way Svs, LE3 3GB	0940 hrs
3	1025 hrs	M6 Toll T4 A5	McDonalds, Wall Island, Lichfield WS14 0QP	1040 hrs

After the service all riders will depart at 1300 hrs in convoy to RBL, Alrewas for refreshments.

### **DEATHS**

#### **BAIN**

Former 22628874 Staff Sergeant William Bain passed away on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018. Bill served in the Corps between 1956 and 1966. He transferred to the MPSC and continued his service until 1979.

#### **DERRICK**

Former 23898062 Warrant Officer Class 2 Charles 'Charlie' Derrick passed away peacefully at the age of 71 on the 1st March 2018 at Willen Hospice in Milton Keynes after a long illness. Charlie

enlisted into RMP in 1967 and trained at RMPTC Chichester with Squad 100. He served in RMP for 30 years from 1967 - 1999 with 158 Pro Coy RMP, 160 Pro Coy RMP, 173 Pro Coy RMP, RMPTC, 150 Pro Coy RMP, 247 Pro Coy RMP, 176 Pro Coy RMP and then with, SIB RMP UK in Tidworth and subsequently with SIB Germany in Bielefeld. Following retirement Charlie became an active and popular member of the his local RBL in Milton Keynes and was one of the founder members of the SIB branch of the RMPA being the Standard Bearer and Welfare representative for many years. His funeral was held on Thu 22 Mar 18 at Milton Keynes and was very well attended by many family members, friends and comrades. Sadly Charlie lost his wife Jean some years ago; he is survived by their two sons Paul and Mark.

### **GIRLING**

The following information was seen on Facebook site on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018. In recorded the passing of former 2881147 Corporal Frank Victor Girling aged 98 years within the preceding few days. Frank served in the Second World War. No other information is available at the time of writing.



### **GRIFFIN**

Former 22937538 Lance-Corporal David Griffin, seen on the left, passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, aged 85 years. David trained in 407 Squad in 1953 and went on to complete two years of National Service with 40 Division Provost Company in Hong Kong.

### **HICKMAN**

Former 23563081 Warrant officer Class 2 Ron Hickman passed away on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Ron trained in 689 Squad and it is known that he served in Catterick, Hong Kong and Cyprus. Ron joined the South Yorkshire Branch in 2003 and was a member of the RMP Cyprus Veterans Group.

### **MUDD**

I received a short message that a Brian Mudd, a former member of the Corps, passed away in Saltash, Cornwall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. At the time of writing no other information has been made available.

### **RYDER**

I have been unable to confirm if this death was previously reported. Former 22669465 Lance-Corporal Norman Ryder, seen on the right, was born in Easington Colliery on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 1934 and passed away on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Norman served with 17 Gurkha Provost Company between 1952 and 1954.



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