ROYAL MILITARY POLICE
OLD COMRADES LINK UP
NEWSLETTER #168 JUNE 2021

.YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

The last edition resulted in a number of messages coming forth. The first was from Mike Brown in deepest Romania making reference to 165 Provost Company. He said, 'I spent a year in 165 and as a first posting and, newly married, we moved into a decent quarter at The Dale. The only bad thing about the quarter was the front garden which badly needed a lawn cut. After cutting I turned the lawn from an oblong into an oval with some blue and white border flowers and neatened the whole effect. So some weeks later on entering the unit at Saighton Camp I received an urgent call from RSM Neild. (I think this is Alf Neild) "*Get in here young Brown*" and threw at me a letter. *"You got third place in the Garrison Garden competition"* I also have a yarn about the company cleaner Mrs Walsh. Again a summons from RSM Neild bought me into possession of a large tin of white paint, brushes and the instruction that I was to paint all of the copper pipes in the unit washroom before Mrs Walsh returned from a month's leave. The copper pipes were the pride and joy of the intrepid cleaner who spent all of her time polishing then to the exclusion any of her other duties. She was furious.' *Ed: There was always an abundance of paint in my days - as they said, if it moves salute it, if it doesn't move paint it.*

In a later message Mike said, 'I passed P Company and joined Para Provost until 16 Para Bde was disbanded and I was then posted to SHAPE where I was poached by the Intelligence Corps. After a Diplomatic tour of Sofia, Bulgaria and Bucharest, Romania I was commissioned Captain and now live with my British wife just outside Bucharest. Life has been interesting to say the least, including innocent participation in the Revolution of 1989. The press interview and reports are still on the net. Google Lieutenant Mike Brown 1989 Bucharest revolution you'll see the coverage.'

From deepest Romania to deepest York. Jim McIntosh remarked on the visit of HM Queen to BAOR. He said, 'I too was involved in the Queen's visit to BAOR in 1965. As a junior Sgt in SIB, I was located about 300 feet up a Glockenturm on the perimeter of the Olympic Stadium in Berlin whilst she inspected a large parade there. I recall having to wear a trilby and being armed with an American pistol. If I had shot it from my position you would have been able to catch the bullet! Another security measure was the requirement to display different coloured lapel pins to designate which areas we had authorised access to. I also had a radio but I cannot remember if it worked.'

Staying with the Royal visit to BAOR I heard from Maurice Nicholls and he said, 'Hello Bob, Ref the entry in your latest edition of the Old Comrades link-up I was very interested to read Brian Andrews' entry about the great armoured parade at Sennelager in honour of the Queen. As OC of 20 Armd Bde Pro Unit at the time you and Brian may have had the misfortune to have been bossed around a bit by me since I was responsible for the RMP support of the function.
And yes, there was a painting of the parade a copy of which I think is now gathering dust in the loft of my house. On leaving the Army I had been employed in the Defence Industry and ultimately spent seven very happy years in Malaysia trying to sell the Malaysians some British Tanks. Much as they appeared to appreciate the said picture which was hanging in my office out there, they were not equally impressed by my sales ability and ultimately settled for some Polish vehicles. Hey ho! Happy days!' *Ed: I have had confirmation from Maurice that he does not have the painting.*

From sunny Werl, well it was when she wrote, I heard from Alice Lowe. 'I had to laugh out loud when I saw the photo of Ray Smith in Dortmund, my hometown, from the late 1958-59 period. I met Ray at the same time as I met Jack, my late husband as I was working in the NAAFI in Dortmund.' *Ed: Thank you Alice and I am pleased that you and your family are keeping well.*

In the last edition I published a photograph of a NCO dressed in Battle Dress standing against an Austin Champ and asked if anyone could identify him. Jim Porter was the man with the memory and said, 'The unknown NCO is LCpl Frank Baron 1(Br) Corps Pro Coy RMP. He would be stationed at No2 Section Celle at that time and before that at Sennelager. He went on to have a good career with the Northumberland Police good Geordie lad. The other two Geordie lads at that time were Norman Elley mentioned previously and Ken Lumsden all of 806 Squad.'

Ted Thompson recalls his time in the Corps. ‘Thanks for keeping us interested in up to date news and ‘Old times’. I was in a Section of 101 Provost Company stationed at Rhine Workshops in the town of Moenchen Gladbach in 1957. I passed my test two weeks after arriving in Germany driving an Austin Champ and drove one almost every day for the next eighteen months. When the section closed in November 1958 I completed my National Service at HQ BAOR Rhinedahlen and became the Austin 1 Ton truck driver. The reason I am contacting you is we had an Escort vehicle at Rhine workshops for a while, I think it was an Opel and it was said it had been used to escort Princess Margaret, not sure if true maybe someone will know. I am going to try and attach photos not very savvy with IT.





Keep up the good work and keep safe. As I said Bob not very good but luckily the delete button is there. I am on the left with Ginger Edwards.’ *Ed: Thank you Ted. I have a feeling that the Opel Kapitan has featured in my newsletters on a few other occasions and I know of one person who was the driver for a while. As you can see I found a photograph of what I believe is the same vehicle.*



We are certainly going around the world in this edition. My next contribution comes from Al Smith out there in the US of A. ‘Hi Bob. Thanks for the Newsletter #167, it's always good to read about others who served in the Corps, and the one part where Bryan Johnson mentioned the slashed peaks and weights brought to mind of a no no that I did while at Inkerman. My first billet was above the Sergeant's Mess in the building to the right of the square. I sneaked out of the window behind my bed to "liberate" some of the lead roof flashing that I made my weights out of. Bad boy. I got to Inkerman in February of 1951, and was in 216 Squad. Like most squads, we looked upon ourselves as the best squad there, and we even won the seven a side football trophy, beating the Depot A team in the final. Gerry Richardson was the centre half, I was the goalkeeper, and Viv Thomas was the centre forward, but I can't remember any of the rest of the team. We also did quite well on the sports weekends, a stand out being Terence "Twiggy" Tree who was great in the three mile run. I heard about Gerry's death from a guy who applied for a job with me while in business in Maryland. This fellow told me that he was from Blackpool, and I mentioned that a good friend I served with named Richardson was from Blackpool, and he said "Gerry Richardson?" It was then that I heard the whole story. What a shame to go so young. Most of our intake went to SHAPE at Marly Le Roi in France, and were stationed at Camp Des Loges just outside of Saint Germaine, which, I believe is where the Paris Saint Germaine football team has its stadium now. I guess that the old camp is a thing of the past now. Seeing the uniforms of today always makes me smile when I think of our summer uniform. We simply took off our battle dress jacket, rolled up our sleeves, took off our tie, opened the top button of our shirts, and there was our summer uniform! What a difference when I joined the U.S. Army Military Police and received six summer uniforms. Ah the good old days. Thanks again for the Newsletter Bob, keep em coming. Cheers, Al.’ *Ed: I think the said football club has its training ground where you indicated and I believe that some of the single storey buildings are still there, well they were when I last visited the area a few years ago.*

We now head north to Canada and Derek McCorquindale, Squad 250 (1951-1953). 'The photo sent to you by Ray Smith for Old Comrades in the May 2021 Newsletter #167, of the front of HQ RMP 5 Section, 2nd Inf. Brigade Provost Unit, Iserlohn (1958), Germany, brought back memories. I am pleased to send a few 1953 Iserlohn photos of the HQ Section House that RMP had to endure. During the war we understood this was German Officers' accommodation and mess. Our Section Sergeant was "Taffy" Haines and our RSM was WO1 (RSM) f Mullinder





Myself and John Horton (RMPA North America Branch were both at Iserlohn for a year). John lives in Calgary and me in Cochrane – Alberta. Canada.
Other fellows we would remember from our RMP 1951-53 time would include :- Bill Hodgeson, Ken Norris, Eric Crisp, Frank Ball, Jeff Parks, Tony Himsworth, Pete Roughley, Pete Prince, Bob Wolley, Jack Knight, Joe Barrett, Roger Coleman, Bill Downy, Bob MacKinnin, ? Windle, ? Spencer, Jim White, etc. plus a few older regulars who have passed-on. The Group Photo was 90% of Company taken at Hilden just before the parade for Queen Elizabeth's Coronation. These photos and some names may be familiar to a few readers.'



-ooOoo-

Thomas Waples contacted me and said, 'Many months ago I mentioned I would write about entering the Armed Forces as a National Serviceman, When you sign up you had no idea the Service you were marked down for. However, the Army called for my service, which I gladly accepted.
However, my first choice was the Palestine Police, but unfortunately in was at that moment being disdained. Bob, one excuse after another, yes I did write about the trials and tribulations of a young lad of 18 plus year joining the Army, but when my wife read my transcript. She mentioned perhaps twenty plus A4 pages were a little long, so I started again, and again, very difficult to cut down and trim, until in the end all was pleased. But, when handing over the I Pad everything vanished, where did it go, I have no idea. I looked under the arm chairs, all over the place, and have now decided why on earth should I worry about something that happened 68 years ago which I can just about remember my Army Number. I joined September 1950 - 1952 enjoyed every minute, served in England, Cyprus and finished 2 weeks after I should have been. I was demobbed Egypt, so I served 2 years and 2 months. Incidentally when I was called up the length of National Service was 18 months, within a short time it went to 24 months at 3 shillings and 6 pence a day, to start off with. I served with 3rd Infantry Division Provost Company. *Ed: I know that feeling when you hit a button and it all disappears. Tom, start writing again.*

Over the years I have received hundreds of photographs and for that I am truly thankful. The RMP Museum also benefits as I either pass on the originals or the digital images. I normally have a reserve and the one that has finally made it to the top of the pile is a selection of photographs sent in by Mike Owen which were taken at Herford on the 4th May 1955 during the visit to 11th Armoured Division Provost Company by the Provost Marshall Brigadier RHL Oulton OBE. I have selected three photographs for this edition with more to follow.

Lance Corporal Stewart, Corporal Dixon, Major North, Brigadier Oulton, Lieutenant Colonel Elliot, Regimental Sergeant Major Barker and Major Birrell.



Below: Brigadier Oulton inspecting Sergeant Marshall with Sergeant Boothby on the left. Major Birrell, Lieutenant Colonel Elliot and Lieutenant Colonel Astley-Ruston are also seen.

Below is a photograph which just has the inscription, "The Super-numeracies".



Please do not ask me which band is playing in the background.

Below shows the PM being introduced to the ladies.



Bottom left is Major North leading the Drive Past.

Please keep your photographs coming in they all form part of the history of our Corps





-ooOoo-

I received the following from Michael Dixon who served in Berlin from 1953 to 1955 as a National Serviceman.
'As a four power controlled city, as was Vienna, I can understand that there was a desire to impress our American, French and Russian counterparts. To this end a decision must have been made that the Royal Military Police would be issued with tailor fitted Canadian Green, boxed pleated, uniforms and for the vehicles all to be painted black rather than the standard green. I am sure the

uniform helped to instil pride in the wearer but I always felt the black vehicles had slight overtones of the Nazi era. As this has always intrigued me I wonder if there any information as to when and by whom the decision was made in respect of the uniforms. *Ed: I know that the Canadian Battledress was a highly prized item and were apparently superior to our own Battledress.*

A couple of editions ago I may have given the impression that Allan Burrows had passed away but this was found to be completely untrue and Janet sent me a photograph of Allan and said, 'Just thought I would send a photo of Allan taken on 10 June 2021 (this is the day we both had our Covid19 jab) as we were sleeping over our daughter and son-in-law's house that same evening. We won't drive back to our property at night because of the roos on the road - dead or alive. The photo shows Allan with Catherine who is fixing his mobile phone.' *Ed: Allan and I were in the same squad, R1. Following training we went our separate ways and I do not recall meeting up with him at any time in my service.*



168 PROVOST COMPANY

Not much to say about this particular company other than it was part of Western Command in 1944.

CAN YOU HELP

The following request was received from Jon Gilbert concerning his late father who completed his National Service in Corps. 'I am looking to establish my father's service number and to conduct further related research. This is in order that I can create some related memorabilia as a keepsake of his life and without this I cannot engage with any accepted request for his service records.
My father was Michael John Gilbert, born on the 6th September 1932 in Ampthill, Bedfordshire. I am aware that he served with the RMP in the early to mid-1950's as he was at the Queen's Coronation whilst serving. I also know that once his trade was established that he remained as the depot sign writer and was not posted elsewhere. Any information that you could supply to assist my task would be gratefully appreciated.' *Ed: I know that the Curator of the RMP Museum has been able to supply some information to Jon but if anyone out there remembers his father then please let me know.*

Is there anyone out there who remembers Derek Paul Dean who joined the Corps in mid-1976? A nephew wishes to know more about his uncle.

DEATHS

ALLWOOD



Former 23608339 Lance-Corporal Reginald Allwood passed away on the 21st June 2021 aged 83 years. In February 1959 Reg commenced his National Service with the Royal Engineers and on the 19th of that month went to D&TE Inkerman Barracks where he joined 735 Squad. Following a short spell at London District Provost Company he went on to serve in SHAPE and Berlin and completed his service in February 1961. He was a staunch member of the West Yorkshire Branch.

AXUP

Major Robert Rowland ("Bob") Axup MBE, died in France on Saturday, May 29th, aged 72. Enlisting in the Royal Military Police in 1967 and training at Roussillon Barracks, Bob would go on to enjoy a full career with the Special Investigation Branch and reaching the rank of Warrant Officer (Class 1) having served variously in the United Kingdom, in Germany with the British Army of the Rhine, in the Falkland Islands and Cyprus.

On gaining a Commission in 1987, a posting to Northern Ireland followed before he went on to command Western Region SIB on the mainland. Returning to Ulster in 1992, Bob was subsequently appointed MBE in 1993, before commanding 156 Provost Company, based in Colchester. His final assignment was as the first Officer Commanding of the Equal Opportunities Inquiry Team (EOIT). He retired from the Active List in 2001.

TANCOCK

Former 23102184 Lance-Corporal Anthony John [Tony] Tancock passed away on Tuesday the 23rd March 2021, aged 84 yrs. Tony completed his National Service from 1955-1957, serving initially in squad 480, Inkerman Barracks, Woking. He was then posted to the 7th Armoured Division Provost Company, RMP in Verden/Aller Germany. On completion of National Service he joined the Devon Constabulary which later merged with The Cornwall force in 1967, completing 30 years' service.

WEIGHTS

Steve 'Wogga' Weights passed away in hospital in Bulgaria on the 5th June 2021. At the time of writing I do not have any further information.

Compiled by: Bob Eggelton

02392 265645
07913 997233
roberteggelton@btinternet.com