



# ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**Aug 2025**

**President: Brigadier Sarah Pringle - Smith**

**Chair: Bob Potts**

**Vice Chair: Sean Taylor**

**Secretary: Peter Vorberg**

**Treasurer: Taff Pickering**

## **Newsletter**

This is your newsletter. I can only include what you send me, so please send a short narrative and photographs of any interesting or even boring events. This newsletter goes out to members who may not use social media, so it is the ideal way to show them what the Association is up to. Can I ask that if you are submitting photographs, please include names if possible.

## **I Military Police Brigade.**



Brig Gen Sarah Albrycht, Provost Marshal General of the US Army, and the 200th Military Police Command. Hosted, Brig Sarah Pringle-Smith Provost Marshal Army and Comd 1 MP Bde.

## **Adjutant Generals Corps.**

The Corps welcomed 15 new Second Lieutenants who marched up the iconic steps of Sandhurst after 44 weeks of world-class military and leadership training:

Two will serve in the Staff and Personnel Support Branch. Six in the Royal Military Police, and seven in the Educational and Training Services Branch. Best wishes to all of them for what promises to be a bright future ahead.



### **Donations to the Association in Memory of or in Tribute to.**

Often, We are approached by undertakers and families alike about how and to whom people may donate in memory of or tribute to a deceased former Corps member.

Our stock answer has been up until today – that the funeral director should gather in donations in our name and submit either a cheque or Bacs payment to us. As of now any such request to any branch or official can be answered by sharing the link to the Much-Loved online tribute and donation service by following this link [www.muchloved.com](http://www.muchloved.com)

Now we are registered anyone may go to that site and donate in our name assured that donations will come straight to us, and appropriate Gift Aid will be processed by HMRC direct. Our charity is now registered, and any individual or funeral director may process donations to us.

### **Peter Milburn Mobile Emergency Test Reminder.**

Thanks to Peter for passing on the following information. On Sunday 7 September 25 at around 3pm, mobile phones on 4G and 5G networks across the country will vibrate and emit a loud siren-like sound for up to ten seconds. A test message will appear on screens, making it clear the alert is a drill.

### **Code of Conduct.**

As you are all aware there has previously been a number of discussions regarding Rule 13, which related primarily to forfeiture of membership of the Association. It was felt that the Rule was outdated and the Association needed to consider either updating or replacing it with a Code of Conduct. At the recent AGM one of the actions for the Trustees was to compile a Code of Conduct, which we have now completed.

A briefing document outlining the Code of Conduct, has been incorporated into the Association Rules and is available on the website: <https://rmpa.org.uk/rmpa-rules/>

The Code of Conduct includes a section for all members and a separate section for Association appointees.

Individuals can report potential breaches of the Code online: <https://rmpa.org.uk/policies/report-of-code-of-conduct-breach/> or internally within a Branch.

Depending on the nature of the breach this will either be investigated and dealt with within a Branch or at National Level, with independent Branch members or Trustees appointed by the Chair to investigate / review the complaint.

The potential sanctions are outlined in the Code and individuals can appeal the decision, which will be heard by three Trustees appointed by the Chair that have not been involved with the process.

Trustees are able to remove an individual's membership of the Association and the decision to do so can be taken at any point in time, and this decision no longer requires a vote being taken at the AGM.

If after reviewing the documents you have any questions, please let me or Peter know. If needed, we can host an online meeting to discuss / clarify any concerns.

## **HQ PM(A) IIA newsletter**

The latest addition of the PM(A) newsletter is now available on the RHQ website. There will not be an update in August.

**Communications** RHQ are aware that not everyone who served on Op CESTRO and Op NORTHMOOR receive this newsletter. We would be grateful if you could pass this link on to those you served with and ask them to contact us via the RMP IIA group mailbox so that we can add them to the distribution list. All previous editions of this newsletter can be found on the Regimental Headquarters website under the 'Newsletters' section. If you would like to receive this newsletter on a different email address, then please contact SO1 Policy and Communications IIA with your amendment using the group mailbox. Please also let them know if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

## **Nomination Procedure for an RMPA Certificate of Merit.**

Should a branch member or someone associated with the branch be recognised by the Association? Consider nominating them for an RMPA, certificate of merit. Full details are in the RMPA Branch Rules and procedures which should be held by your Branch Secretary. If they are not, please ask the National Secretary to forward you a copy.

## **RMP Journal**

The RMP Journal is published three times a year (April, August, and December) and is packed with a diverse range of interesting articles. A full-colour publication, it is available in print form and online. However, I am amazed how few former RMP subscribe to the Journal - less than 450 from a potential readership of 20K - when it only costs £15 per year (and even less if one subscribes to the on-line version.) The RMP Journal keeps everyone up to date and lets people know of forthcoming regimental and Association events too and if more took it, then they would certainly be far better informed. If you wish to subscribe for a print edition, email Clare Kelly-White at [pa@rhqrmp.org](mailto:pa@rhqrmp.org)

## **Obituary Notices.**

Obituary notices may be submitted for inclusion in the RMP Journal, for those who have passed away of any rank - and not just officers. The determining factor being quite simply those who have someone that is prepared to take the time and trouble to write such a personal notice which must be detailed, accurate and have the approval of the family of the deceased, ideally with photograph. Stuart McLean the editor of the RMP Journal makes the following comment. "I have received no obituary notices from the friends and family of former non-commissioned ranks. I wish to make it clear that I would welcome such notices and would include them in the Journal - but I don't receive any. I know that there is a misconception that Obituaries are only for Officers, but I would like it known that this is not the case for the RMP Journal. If you take the time to write it, I will print it.

## **Cenotaph Parade 2025**

For those that have applied for places on this year's Cenotaph parade, you should by now have received a confirmation email from the RBL. If you have not, please check your SPAM folder first then email Bob Potts from your registered email address and he will chase up your application.

This year's RBL Remembrance Parade tickets have all been allocated; we will only be able to offer places should anyone drop out. Individuals on the reserve list will be offered them. Those of you that have received notification of your place, should your circumstances change, and you cannot attend please let us know at the earliest opportunity so we can apply to reallocate the ticket.

## **RATS REUNION 2025 Fri 03 Oct - Sun 05 Oct 2025**

The above event will be held at the Bromsgrove Hotel, Birmingham Rd, B61 0JB. Further information can be obtained from: [moffatandy29@gmail.com](mailto:moffatandy29@gmail.com) All other details available on the Rats Reunion Facebook page.

## **Contact The Trustees.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>E mail</b>	<b>Branch</b>
Bob Potts	Chair	<a href="mailto:potts8@me.com">potts8@me.com</a> <a href="mailto:chair@rmpa.org.uk">chair@rmpa.org.uk</a>	Derby Tel. 07931 723206
Sean Taylor	Vice Chair	<a href="mailto:seanetaylor3130@gmail.com">seanetaylor3130@gmail.com</a> . <a href="mailto:vice.chair@rmpa.org.uk">vice.chair@rmpa.org.uk</a>	London
Peter Vorberg	Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@rmpa.org.uk">secretary@rmpa.org.uk</a>	London
Taff Pickering	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:rmpatreasurer7@gmail.com">rmpatreasurer7@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:treasurer@rmpa.org.uk">treasurer@rmpa.org.uk</a>	SIB
Jimmy Walker	Trustee	<a href="mailto:Jimmywalk86@hotmail.co.uk">Jimmywalk86@hotmail.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:trustee.NI@rmpa.org.uk">trustee.NI@rmpa.org.uk</a>	NI
Steve McManus	Trustee	<a href="mailto:bluebear21@btinternet.com">bluebear21@btinternet.com</a> <a href="mailto:trustee.wales@rmpa.org.uk">trustee.wales@rmpa.org.uk</a>	Wales
Stuart Reilly	Trustee	<a href="mailto:Stuart.reilly@rmpa.org.uk">Stuart.reilly@rmpa.org.uk</a>	Solent
Irene Furlong	Trustee	<a href="mailto:I_furlong2005@hotmail.com">I_furlong2005@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:trustee.scotland@rmpa.org.uk">trustee.scotland@rmpa.org.uk</a>	Scotland
John Alecock	Senior Serving Rep	Via the National Secretary.	

## **RMPA Diary of Forthcoming Events that may be of interest. 2025 /2026.**

**If you are Hosting or organising an event that you wish to add please send details to Bob Potts**

### **Possible Changes to the Forecast of Events 2026.**

#### **The Tower of London Parade.**

This event is likely to be cancelled again due to the over running time frame of repairs to the chapel. This is completely out of our hands and is regrettable. A firm decision will be taken ASP and all interested parties informed.

### **RMP / RMPA Memorial Service at the NMA. 06 June 2026.**

RHQ RMP are looking at organising an event to celebrate 100 years since the amalgamation of the MFP and the MMP and also the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Royal Prefix to the Military Police. This event will hopefully be held at Southwick Park, the home of the RMP sometime in June/July 26. More details when a firm date has been agreed. If this event goes ahead then the RMP/RMPA memorial parade will be cancelled.

Date / Time	Event	Location	Further Information
2025			
13 Sep 25	NIVA Parade	NMA	<a href="mailto:potts8@me.com">potts8@me.com</a> .
19 Sep 25	Cheshire and North Wales. Lunch	Chester Golf Club.	<a href="mailto:gowoodall35@gmail.com">gowoodall35@gmail.com</a> .
3 – 5 Oct 25	Rats Reunion	Bromsgrove	<a href="mailto:moffatandy29@gmail.com">moffatandy29@gmail.com</a>
18 Oct 25	Scotland Branch Dinner	Old Waverly Hotel Edinburgh.	<a href="mailto:Secretary.scotland@rmpa.org.uk">Secretary.scotland@rmpa.org.uk</a>
18 Oct 25	NE Branch Dinner	Newcastle	<a href="mailto:rayw361@googlemail.com">rayw361@googlemail.com</a> .
06 Nov 25	Opening of the Garden of Remembrance.	Westminster Abbey.	Peter Vorberg will be the RMPA lead for this event. <a href="mailto:secretary@rmpa.org.uk">secretary@rmpa.org.uk</a>
08 Nov 25	RMP MPS Memorial service	Westminster Abbey. Memorial Garden.	<a href="mailto:potts8@me.com">potts8@me.com</a> . <a href="mailto:chair@rmpa.org.uk">chair@rmpa.org.uk</a> RHQ RMP
09 Nov 25	RBL Remembrance Parade and Muster	Cenotaph.	<a href="mailto:potts8@me.com">potts8@me.com</a> . <a href="mailto:chair@rmpa.org.uk">chair@rmpa.org.uk</a>
2026			
Feb 26	Tower Of London Parade	Tower Of London	<a href="mailto:Vice.chair@rmpa.org">Vice.chair@rmpa.org</a> <b>This event is likely to be cancelled.</b>
07 Mar 26	WRAC Provost Reunion Dinner	Cambridge	<a href="mailto:Jacjun3@aol.com">Jacjun3@aol.com</a>
24 – 26 Apr 26	RMPA AGM and Reunion	Cardiff.	<a href="mailto:Secretary.southwales@rmpa.org.uk">Secretary.southwales@rmpa.org.uk</a> .
Jun 26	<b>RMP Memorial Parade</b>	<b>NMA</b>	<b>RHQ. This event is likely to be cancelled.</b>
Jun/Jul 26	<b>80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	<b>Southwick Park</b>	<b>Details to follow soon.</b>
Jun / Jul 26	West Yorkshire Dinner	Bradford	Date TBC
Jul 26	AGC Memorial Parade	NMA	RHQ AGC
Aug 26	Cyprus Veterans	NMA	This event is under review.
Sep 26	NIVA Parade	NMA	
Nov 26	Remembrance Parades	London	

**Northern Ireland Veteran's Association (NIVA)**  
**Service of Remembrance**  
**National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

All RMP Veterans, together with families and friends, are once again invited to attend and support the NIVA Service and Parade at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA).

The service will commemorate, and remember, all those who lost their lives in service of the Crown, as a result of the conflict in Northern Ireland. The chapel service, which commences at 1110hrs in The Millenium Chapel, will be followed by a parade down to the Ulster Ash Grove for laying of wreaths. Following the wreath laying, there will be a 15-minute pause, before the parade forms up for the return march to the Visitor Centre, during which time a salute will be taken.

Immediately afterwards, some may want to enjoy the Arboretums beautiful grounds and then gather to catch up with old friends at the modern and well-equipped on-site restaurant, before returning home that afternoon.



Over recent years, after the event, a gathering of RMP Veterans has “been occurring” in Wetherspoons, Standing Order Pub, Derby City Centre. Therefore, for those who may want to make a weekend of it, share a drink or two and perhaps “pull up a sandbag,” then once again, why not join a band of RMP Brothers and Sisters, commencing teatime ish.

Derby has some excellent and well-priced hotels. Booking will be down to individuals.

Further details available from: Bob Potts [Potts8@me.com](mailto:Potts8@me.com) or [Chair@rmpa.uk](mailto:Chair@rmpa.uk)

Or contact Dave Paynter for further details regarding the evening gathering.  
[Chair.westyorkshire@rmpa.org.uk](mailto:Chair.westyorkshire@rmpa.org.uk)

### **Kent Branch.**

Apologies to Kent branch who submitted the following article for inclusion in the June newsletter for some reason it got lost in my filing system and only surfaced following a reminder from Alan. Members of Kent Branch travelled to Sheffield Park Station, East Sussex, home of the Bluebell Railway. The Occasion, a Fish & Chip Supper on board “Beach Head” one of the old steam trains. Drinks ordered it was ‘All Aboard’ to our seats in a very comfortable first-class dining compartment. 6.30pm train whistle blew and we were on our way trundling through the Sussex countryside passing fields of lambs, sheep, cows, horses and much more whilst the sun shone from an azure, blue sky. All this whilst enjoying our fish and chips followed by a choice of desert, Lemon Cheesecake or Chocolate Moose and coffee served by the very friendly crew, they even supplied bread and butter. Stopping to collect passengers at Horsted Keynes and Kingscote we finally arrive at East Grinstead where we were able to stretch our legs for 20minutes. It was then back on board returning to Sheffield Park just under 2 hours from leaving. A trip that everyone enjoyed and is thoroughly recommended.





The people in each photo, members only, from L to R starting at the top are, Mike McGeouch, Sharon McGeouch, Paul Martin. Alan Fairfax, Peter Padbury, Dave Law, Lance Clarke.

### **West Yorkshire Branch.**

On the evening of Thursday 7th August 25 at The Wetherby Whaler, Fish and Chip Restaurant, Pudsey, Branch Members together with partners, friends and family thoroughly enjoyed a good, hearty "Fish Supper." Afterwards we reconvened in our nearby snug to hold the August Branch Meeting. Thank you one and all for the continued support. Further I would like to thank John Atkinson, North America RMPA for joining our merry throng and trust you enjoyed yourself.

Please if you are interested in supporting this association of ours then I encourage you to do so by contacting your nearest Branch and hopefully that is this one here in West Yorkshire. All the best Davey Paynter.



### **Branch BBQ.**

Firstly, a massive thank you to Vikki, Durk's and not forgetting mum n dad for the wonderful barbecue, your hospitality is greatly appreciated.

The weather remained kind although the light winds at times caught a few glasses and plates unaware, with Sam Jackson throwing his beer over "Our Molly" (not my dog).

Great Food, Great Company and as you can see the Sun at times did once again shine on the righteous here in West Yorkshire.



And as always, please if you're interested in supporting this association of ours then I encourage you to do so because it NEEDS YOU. Just contact your nearest branch and hopefully that is this one here in West Yorkshire



Colin under pressure to purchase Raffel tickets!!

### **National Memorial Arboretum**

If you're planning a visit to the Arboretum this summer, don't forget that you can get here on the seven-day regular shuttle bus service from Tamworth Rail Station.

You'll find the timetable on our website, along with the timetable for connecting services from Alrewas Village to Lichfield and Burton.

Each journey costs £3 per passenger and trips are free for National Concessionary Bus Pass holders. This bus service is funded by Staffordshire County Council and operated by Diamond Bus East Midlands to make it easier for people to visit who either don't own a vehicle or prefer more sustainable transport options.

### **Illuminated Arboretum**

We only put our advance tickets for this year's Illuminated Arboretum on sale two weeks ago and already the slots are filling up!

Why not kick off your festive season with our hugely popular winter light trail around the grounds and memorials at the Arboretum, this year featuring special 'The Year was 1945...' elements commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War?

The mile-long route around the Arboretum in Staffordshire will use mesmerising light, colour, and sound to bring the fascinating stories of the Arboretum to life in a unique way, featuring fun hands-on elements, immersive spaces, and areas for personal reflection.

Illuminated Arboretum runs from 5 – 22 December. If you want to make sure you get your preferred slot, we'd recommend booking early as our weekend sessions always sell out first.

And, if you book before 30 September, you'll get tickets at our special advance prices.

### **Ride to The Wall 2025.**

Each year on the first Saturday in October, thousands of motorcyclists make their annual pilgrimage to the Armed Forces Memorial at the Arboretum to pay tribute to those who can 'no longer ride by our side'.

To date, £1.83m has been raised through RTTW's activities, helping to care for the Nation's year-round place to remember, and to ensure that the baton of Remembrance can be passed on to future generations.



Listen out for the sound of motorcycles returning to the Arboretum on 4 October when they will welcome RTTW 2025. I am sure that our own motorcyclists will be a part of this event.

### **Colchester Branch Dave Howard Visits.**

Dave Howard went visiting **Kevin Reakes** in Colchester bearing gifts of toiletries, biscuits and choccies. Kev is in good spirits, as can be seen in the photograph. If anyone in the area would like to spend the occasional hour visiting Kev, email me for the address and details.



Dave Howard.

Kevin Reakes.

### **Branch Contacts.**

You will notice that we do not have a contact for some branches or areas. If you would like details on becoming an area, contact or resurrecting a branch, please contact myself or Stewart the National Secretary. If I have made any mistakes, please let me know and I will correct them.

Area	Contact	Method / Status
3 Shires	Andrew Wayland	<a href="mailto:Andrew.wayland@sky.com">Andrew.wayland@sky.com</a> .
Aldershot. Name change coming soon.	Chris Martin	<a href="mailto:cchmRMP@outlook.com">cchmRMP@outlook.com</a> . Area Contact
Birmingham Central	Trevor Bassett	<a href="mailto:Trevor.bassett@btopenworld.com">Trevor.bassett@btopenworld.com</a> .
Black Country		
Bristol		
Buckinghamshire		
Cheshire & North Wales	George Woodall	<a href="mailto:gowoodall35@gmail.com">gowoodall35@gmail.com</a> .
Colchester	Dave Howard	<a href="mailto:dnh595@gmail.com">dnh595@gmail.com</a>

Coventry & Warwickshire	Julian Grubb	<a href="mailto:Julian.grubb1@btinternet.com">Julian.grubb1@btinternet.com</a>
CP	<a href="mailto:secretary@rmpa.org.uk">secretary@rmpa.org.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:secretary@rmpa.org.uk">secretary@rmpa.org.uk</a>
Cyprus		
Derby	Kathryn Potts	<a href="mailto:kathryn.potts@me.com">kathryn.potts@me.com</a> . <a href="mailto:Secretary.derby@rmpa.org.uk">Secretary.derby@rmpa.org.uk</a>
Dorset		
East Sussex	Derek Mead	<a href="mailto:derek-mead@sky.com">derek-mead@sky.com</a> .
Fenland & District		
Gloucester		
Hertfordshire & Essex	Ernest Large	<a href="mailto:Ernest.large82@gmail.com">Ernest.large82@gmail.com</a>
Hull & East Riding	Pete Watson	<a href="mailto:hullrmpa@gmail.com">hullrmpa@gmail.com</a> .
Isle of Man		
Isle Of Wight	John Dugdale	<a href="mailto: johndugdale306@btinternet.com">johndugdale306@btinternet.com</a> .
Kent	Jonathan Webb	<a href="mailto:jonathanandliz@btinternet.com">jonathanandliz@btinternet.com</a> .
London	Sean Taylor	<a href="mailto:seantaylor3130@gmail.com">seantaylor3130@gmail.com</a> . <a href="mailto:Secretary.london@rmpa.org.uk">Secretary.london@rmpa.org.uk</a>
Manchester	John Tasker	<a href="mailto:John.tasker@gmail.com">John.tasker@gmail.com</a>
Merseyside	Chris Broadley	<a href="mailto:icb@talktalk.net">icb@talktalk.net</a>
Mounted Troop	Sandy Low	<a href="mailto:Sandy.low57@gmail.com">Sandy.low57@gmail.com</a> .
MPLEMC	Stuart Hamilton	<a href="mailto:secretary.mplemc@gmail.com">secretary.mplemc@gmail.com</a> .
North America	Don Hood	<a href="mailto:dhood8866@gmail.com">dhood8866@gmail.com</a>
North East	Bob Hodgson	<a href="mailto:bobhrmpa@mail.com">bobhrmpa@mail.com</a>
North Yorkshire		
Northern Ireland	Jimmy Walker	<a href="mailto:Jimmywalk86@hotmail.co.uk">Jimmywalk86@hotmail.co.uk</a> .
Norwich Breakfast Club	Liz Tyler	Contact only no branch.
Republic of Ireland		
Salisbury Plain	John Baber	<a href="mailto:johnbaber@hotmail.co.uk">johnbaber@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Scotland	Andy Robertson	<a href="mailto:rmpascotland@gmail.com">rmpascotland@gmail.com</a> . <a href="mailto:Secretary.scotland@rmpa.org.uk">Secretary.scotland@rmpa.org.uk</a>
Solent	Bob Eggelton	<a href="mailto:roberteggelton@btinternet.com">roberteggelton@btinternet.com</a> .
South Wales	Kath Jennings	<a href="mailto:secretary@rmpasouthwales.org.uk">secretary@rmpasouthwales.org.uk</a>
South Yorkshire		
Special Investigation Branch	Phil Ellis	<a href="mailto:secretary@rmpasib.co.uk">secretary@rmpasib.co.uk</a> .
Taunton	Stewart Leach	<a href="mailto:rmpataunton@yahoo.com">rmpataunton@yahoo.com</a> .
West Sussex	Bill Watkins	<a href="mailto:we.watkins@btopenworld.com">we.watkins@btopenworld.com</a> .
West Yorkshire	Jim Nylan	<a href="mailto:James.nylan@icloud.com">James.nylan@icloud.com</a> .
Western Australia	Eric Heath	<a href="mailto:Eric.heath@bigpond.com">Eric.heath@bigpond.com</a>
WRAC Provost	Kath Potts	Contact for info only. Will feed into Facebook Page.

### **Up to date contact list, New Standard Branch email addresses.**

3 Shires	Andrew Wayland	Chairman.3Shires@RMPA.org.uk
Birmingham Central	Trevor Bassett	Secretary.BirminghamCentral@RMPA.org.uk
Cheshire And North Wales	Tom Jones	Secretary.CheshireAndNorthWales@RMPA.org.uk
Colchester & East Anglia	Dave Howard	Secretary.Colchester@RMPA.org.uk
Coventry And Warwickshire	Julian Grubb	Chairman.CoventryAndWarwickshire@RMPA.org.uk
Close Protection Branch	Marcus Turnbull	<u>Secretary.CloseProtection@RMPA.Org.UK</u>
Derby	Kathryn Potts	Secretary.Derby@RMPA.org.uk
East Sussex	Derek Mead	Chairman.EastSussex@RMPA.org.uk
Hertfordshire And Essex	Ernest Large	Chairman.HertfordshireAndEssex@RMPA.org.uk
Hull And East Riding	Pete Watson	Secretary.HullAndEastRiding@RMPA.org.uk
Isle Of Wight	John Dugdale	Chairman.IsleOfWight@RMPA.org.uk
Kent	Jonathon Webb	Secretary.Kent@RMPA.org.uk
London	Sean Taylor	Secretary.London@RMPA.org.uk
Manchester	Gary Joynes	Secretary.Manchester@RMPA.org.uk
Mounted Troop	Sandy Low	Chairman. Mounted Troop@RMPA.org.uk
MPLMC	Bris Lightower	Secretary.MPLMC@RMPA.org.uk
North America	Bill Drummond	Chairman.NorthAmerica@RMPA.org.uk
North East	Bob Hodgson	Chairman.NorthEast@RMPA.org.uk
Northern Ireland	Jimmy Walker	Secretary.NorthernIreland@RMPA.org.uk
North Hampshire & Surrey	Chris Martin	Chairman.NorthHampshireandSurrey@RMPA.org.uk
Salisbury Plain	John Baber	Secretary.SalisburyPlain@RMPA.org.uk
Scotland	Andy Robertson	Secretary.Scotland@RMPA.org.uk
Special Investigation Branch	Phil Ellis	Secretary.SIB@RMPA.org.uk
Solent	Bob Eggelton	Secretary.Solent@RMPA.org.uk
South Wales	Kath Jennings	Secretary.SouthWales@RMPA.org.uk
Taunton	Stewart Leach	Secretary.Taunton@RMPA.org.uk
Western Australia	Matt Edmunds	Secretary.WesternAustralia@RMPA.org.uk
West Sussex	Bill Watkins	Secretary.WestSussex@RMPA.org.uk
West Yorkshire	James Nylan	Secretary.WestYorkshire@RMPA.org.uk
Republic of Ireland	Ollie Doyle	Secretary.ROI@RMPA.org.uk



## **RMPA Scotland Annual Dinner.**

Dear Members and Esteemed Guests,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us for the Scotland Branch Royal Military Police Association Annual Dinner. This much-anticipated event will take place on **Saturday, 18th October 2025**, Pre-dinner drinks from 1600hrs and Dinner served at 1800hrs.

**Venue:** Old Waverley Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2BY

### **Event Highlights**

- Enjoy a welcoming glass with friends old and new during pre-dinner drinks from 1600hrs.
- Indulge in a delicious three-course meal with tea and coffee, all for just **£25** per person.
- Reconnect with fellow members and guests in the heart of Edinburgh's iconic Princes Street.
- Further details from: [secretary.scotland@rmpa.org.uk](mailto:secretary.scotland@rmpa.org.uk).

## **Helen and Alex.**

Alex and I would like to thank you all for the lovely flowers , gift and cards received on the occasion of our Diamond wedding anniversary, it is very much appreciated. We have had a lovely few days celebrating with family and friends.



## **VJ Day 80 — Eighty Years Since the Guns Fell Silent in the Pacific**

**Sean Taylor** our Association Vice Chair penned the following.

I thought appropriate to pen some words on seeing Owen at the NMA proudly representing his generation and showing that remembrance has a future as well as a past ... simply amazing.

Today, 15 August 2025, as we are all aware, marks 80 years since Victory over Japan Day—when Imperial Japan's surrender brought the Second World War to its final close.

This anniversary is more than a date in history; it's a moment to remember the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of those who served in the Far East and the Pacific. From the *Forgotten Army* who fought through Burma's jungles, to the prisoners of war who endured unimaginable suffering, their stories remain as vital now as in 1945.

VJ Day also reminds us that peace did not come neatly. In the months and years after, nations and families worked to heal, rebuild, and reconcile. The legacy of that time is not just in memorials or history books—it's in the freedoms, opportunities, and stability we often take for granted today. For many families, including my own, VJ Day lives on in stories, photos, and the duty to keep the peace. It shows us that peace isn't history - it's a choice our generation must make, every day. Let's see what happens in Alaska tonight...  
**Thank you, Sean.**



The Daily Mirror highlights 80 years on from VJ Day against the backdrop of Trump and Putin's meeting. "Praying for peace" is the paper's headline as it features a message from a 105-year-old VJ veteran: "We must never forget".

### **Michael Piotrowski**

Was at Bury Cemetery today, where the Mayor helped to plant two trees to the memory of the fallen. I played Abide with me on the bagpipes as I had discovered this was a hymn favoured by those gallant Prisoners Of War in the Far East.

Lest We Forget

When you go home tell them of us and say for your tomorrow, we gave our today.



### **RMPA Wales.**

The 45th Wales Festival of Remembrance will take place at the ICC Conference Centre, Newport on Saturday 1 November 2025 at 1900hrs. This is always a good event, the Branch can purchase a block of tickets in advance to ensure we remain as a group with those attending reimbursing the Branch for the cost of the ticket(s). To book your place or for further information contact: [Secretary.SouthWales@RMPA.org.uk](mailto:Secretary.SouthWales@RMPA.org.uk).

### **Northern Ireland Veterans Association Service Of Remembrance.**

A service will be held in the NMA Chapel commencing at 1130 hrs on 13 Sep 25. Following which the parade will form up and will be marching to the Ulster Ash Grove for the wreath laying and short service starting at 1230hrs. All standard bearers and branches are welcome to attend. Further details [potts8@me.com](mailto:potts8@me.com).

### **Request for Assistance.**

We have an RMP veteran living in Leicester who would like to attend the Northern Ireland Veterans Memorial Parade at the NMA on Saturday 13th Sept 2025. He is unfortunately unable to drive as he is blind in one eye and had a stroke last year. If anyone is attending the event and can pick up and drop him off after the event, please let Peter Vorberg know. Any assistance will be appreciated. [secretary@rmpa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rmpa.org.uk).

### **Royal Military Police Museum.**

Hot on the heels of our recent VJ Day posts, today we bring you one of the rarest artefacts in the Museum collection; The "slouch hat" worn by No 7945161 Sergeant Percy Smith of the Corps of Military Police (India), CMP (I).

This very hat was worn in Burma during 1944/45 when Percy was attached to the 5th (Indian) Infantry Division Provost Company. Note the scarlet band in the "pugri" and the red on blue MP "flash" on the upturned brim.

The Museum has on display a large variety of rare headgear that was totally unique to the Military Police. Some of them, like this very hat, are some of the only known remaining examples. Why not pay us a visit and see some fine examples of the "Redcap".





### **Challenge Coin**

RMP Challenge Coin a limited edition and available from Museum Shop  
[https://www.rhqrm.org/shop/RMP\\_Server/viewitem.php?productid=249](https://www.rhqrm.org/shop/RMP_Server/viewitem.php?productid=249)



### **Standard Bearers Travel Claims.**

Branch standard bearers attending official functions or funerals on behalf of the Association or branches should submit travel claims via branch Chairs to the National Treasurer. In order to qualify travel must be authorised at a branch meeting or by the trustees, authorisation must be recorded in the branch minutes. I understand that these things can be at short notice so we will allow authorisations from branches to be passed at the next meeting. Milage claims are at present 45p per mile. Public transport claims will be paid at actual expenditure on production of the relevant tickets. Details required are.

Travel address from to. Total Milage claimed, Authorised by. Details of Parade. Should you require any further information or assistance please contact myself or Peter.

### **NI Branch.**

Paul Jones & Alan Officer, RMPA NI were invited by Lisburn City Council to attend the parade and service to mark VJ Day in Lisburn on 15th August.

The photo was taken beside the statue of Prof Frank Pantridge, CBE, MC, OstJ, the inventor of the portable defibrillator. During the war he was taken prisoner and suffered dreadfully at the hands of the Japanese.

RMPA NI Branch Standard was also paraded by Ray Spence.



Paul Jones.

Alan Officer.

RMPA NI celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Branch Anniversary in the Penthouse Suite, Europa Hotel, Belfast on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Unfortunately, some, due to illness etc had to pull out, but still over 100 gathered to celebrate. We were pleased to welcome the RMPA National Chairman and his wife, Bob & Kath Potts, together with members from Branches in Scotland, Derbyshire, South Wales, SIB & North Hampshire & Surrey. Other members and guests travelled from the Mainland and Republic of Ireland. Those attending were entertained by a Piper and Irish Dancers from the Royal Tara Dance Academy. Unfortunately, a waiter slipped on the dance floor with a great clatter from the cutlery he was carrying but when several people rushed to his assistance he got up singing and with his waitress partner entertained us to an unforgettable session. A slide show of 40 years of involvement by the branch was played out on 2 giant screens. Great food, great entertainment and mighty “craic” sure, that’s what it’s all about.

The photo shows some of those that attended.

Regards

Tanky



### **NI 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Dinner.**

The following write up appeared in the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner information booklet. The dinner was held at the Europa Hotel, Belfast over the weekend 23 / 24 Aug 25. It was a splendid affair featuring local entertainment, food and drink of the highest quality. The committee are to be congratulated on organising and producing a weekend that was second to none. The bar for future dinners has certainly been raised. This was my first time visiting Belfast since the late 70s, I was surprised and delighted in the changes that have taken place. It is certainly a lively, friendly and vibrant City that could not be more different from the one that most of us knew. I agree totally with Graham Woodcock who during dinner said, "It is obvious that the younger generation have never lived under the threat of the troubles, and it shows". Hopefully long may it continue, and they will never return to the old ways.

### **History of N I Branch. Tanky Walker.**

Northern Ireland, during the late seventies and early eighties, was still in turmoil with many gun and bomb attacks being carried out by the IRA as well as Protestant Paramilitaries adding their own agenda. Security was extremely tight in all areas, many people did not venture out at night, so where do you begin to try and start to form an RMPA Branch in the Province.

There had been an Association in earlier years which had met at Victoria Barracks, Belfast, but once the "Troubles" started to escalate it was no longer feasible to have meetings or run the Branch, so it folded. Depot had very few records and only a few names of former members – most of these had moved and were not traceable.

In 1981 Tanky Walker decided to set about re-forming the NI Branch and with the help of John McNeil, they started out on a task that would take them nearly 4 years to accomplish.

Because it was a Military Association everything had to be kept a close secret, there was no possibility of advertising in local newspapers etc, everything had to be done by word of mouth.

The first area of concern was where we would hold meetings. It would be impossible to have them in the local bars or clubs; luckily the resident Provost Company in Thiepval Barracks in Lisburn came to our aid and offered us the use of the RMP Cpl's Mess.

This venue was ideal but still involved massive security to get into the barracks. In the early days members would be held at the guardroom, sometimes for up to 45 minutes before we would be allowed to enter. Many new members found this too tiresome and did not bother either attending or remaining as a member. The dedicated ones held firm and stayed the course.

At last, in 1985 the Branch was ready for opening, representatives from the Depot attended the inaugural meeting in Sandhurst Block. A Committee was elected, and the Branch was up and running. Within the year we had our Branch Standard, but it was going to be many years before we were able to parade it openly in NI.

During the early years the majority of the membership were serving or retired members of the Police or Prison Service with some who were RMP TA and Government workers. All were targets in the eyes of the IRA, so security was the first concern.

Branch members would attend various events on the Mainland where we could parade our Standard with pride, we longed to be able to do it at home, but security deemed it otherwise.



Our biggest problem was trying to arrange functions. We had to find a reasonably secure location - this involved the Branch using Prison and Police Service Clubs as well as, on occasion, Military Messes. It was also customary to arrange to have a police and military presence in the area for our protection. Another problem with any function was you had no idea how many would turn up, you booked the venue, paid for a group to play ordered the meal and then there could be a big security alert which would render more than half of the membership unavailable, it was fingers crossed that it would be "alright on the night"

Whereas other Branches could freely go about their business, we were severely restricted in what we could do. This Branch has endured many hardships over the last 40 years; it is with great credit to the members that they have remained loyal to the Branch throughout.

Over the years we have used many different venues within Thiepval Barracks for our meetings. As RMP involvement in the Province declined, so the available facilities became less and less. Eventually we moved out of the Barracks to our new home at the Lisburn Masonic Hall.

This year we celebrate our 40th Anniversary. Those returning to enjoy our celebratory dinner will certainly see a huge difference from when they served here. Nowadays we quite openly parade in full regalia, berets, medals and with our Standard at many events throughout the Province and even in Southern Ireland, which would have been unthinkable many years ago. The Branch have also forged great links with the Military Police Association Ireland.

Over the years we have been invited to the home of the Irish President, Michael D Higgins in Phoenix Park Dublin and for the last 4 years have been invited, along with members of the RMPA RoI Branch, to provide Wreath Escorts to the President of Ireland and to the President of the Irish RBL at their Remembrance Service in St Patricks Cathedral, Dublin.

## **Branch Histories.**

Having read Tanky's history of the NI Branch maybe other branches would like to put something together and let us know what you know about your branch?

## **Cheshire and North Wales Branch.**

George Woodhall asked me to publish their latest branch Newsletter and invitation to join them for Lunch on 19 Sep. Further details ref lunch from: [gowoodall35@gmail.com](mailto:gowoodall35@gmail.com)

Dear All,

It's been quite some time since I wrote to you all and I certainly hope that life has been fine for you and yours. Olga and I are doing okay, we manage to get out and about but not quite as easily as we did some time ago. It takes a little bit more planning, but we get there and enjoy ourselves.

I have been in contact with Tom and Ken and together we thought it would be nice if we were to get together for lunch at the Chester Golf Club on Friday 19th September 2025.

Lunch would be from their daily menu, but as a number of you already know there are usually a number of very good choices to choose from. The costs for branch members and that includes your partner / wife would be 50% reduced in price, paid for from branch funds. We would gather at 12.30 hours for lunch at 13.00 hours.

I hope you will make a special effort to attend; it has been some time since our last get together and it would be lovely to see as many of our members as possible.

The branch as you know is not as active as we once were, old father time is catching us up. Travelling is not as easy as it once was. but the effort is well worth the reward of getting together, so I hope to see you there.

Ken, our Branch Treasurer informed me that our bank has now begun to charge for handling our account, the sum is not too bad, just over £4.00 month, we have been paying this for the last 6 months but chatting with other branches they too have to pay for this service.

One item we would like to hear your views on is planning for the future of our Branch Standard and any other small items which are branch property. From Tom, Ken and I our thoughts are that the Branch Standard should eventually be returned to our Corps Chapel where it would be laid to rest. Hopefully awaiting the future in case, the branch was to be revised.

This doesn't mean our branch will be closing soon or in the medium-term future. However, In the long term there seems generally to be a shortfall from today's Corps former members joining their local RMPA branch in the numbers that they once did. This is in effect forcing a number of branches to close,

We have to think of the future with this recruiting problem facing all branches and, your views would be welcomed.

I shall attach a booking form for the 19th of September and please note your guests are most welcome to attend, and we hope that while enjoying our lunch together we can plan to meet and celebrate with a Branch Christmas Lunch, that would be a lovely event to close

off yet another year. Come November 2025 it will be only two short years to sixtieth year since the formation of the branch, that is a milestone worth planning for, do you agree?

Just a little news of what Olga and I have been up to since retiring as your Branch Secretary for a little over three decades, I believe you know Olga's health and sight deteriorated. Nowadays Olga uses a wheelchair to get about more easily. We have become members of the Wrexham Dementia Memories club. We meet monthly at the Happy Hedgehog Club in Wrexham; you can check it out on Facebook. Members were invited to write their life story and a number of us did, Mine was shortened but the gist is there for folk to read and more importantly is that the sale of each book generates a little profit for the group.

I have also published a book of Poetry and next week I shall be publishing my second book of poetry. Yes, I have found I enjoy sitting down and writing my thoughts in rhyme and without rhyme to tell a story.

Should you wish to purchase a copy of one, or more from the three books available, please let know, the cost of each is £10. The profit margin is small after printing, but each penny counts and goes to a worthwhile local Dementia charity.

In the meantime, take care and stay safe, that Covid bug is still about.

As ever, George.

### **WRAC Provost Reunion Dinner.**

The reunion dinner 2026 is to be held at the Cambridge Belfry Hotel and Spa, on 07 Mar 26. Further details from June Jackson. [Jacjun3@aol.com](mailto:Jacjun3@aol.com) all are welcome to attend more details in due course.

During last year's dinner it was pointed out to me on a number of occasions that the WRAC Provost did not have a dedicated remembrance wreath that could be placed at the Cenotaph. I spoke with the RMPA National Secretary, Peter Vorberg who immediately set about putting this right. We now have a wreath available to purchase from the RBL via their poppy shop any problems with ordering please contact myself or Peter for assistance.

A WRAC Provost Wreath will be placed at the cenotaph in November by Sandy Witten on behalf of all who served with the WRAC Provost.



## **Les and Sue Cooper Derby Branch.**

On Sunday 24th August, myself and Sue attended the Cyprus Veterans Memorial parade during which a wreath was laid on behalf of Derby Branch RMPA. During the ceremony I met and spoke to David Littlemore (RMP Retd) and president of the Cyprus Vets memorial group. He informed me that today's parade will be the last memorial for Cyprus vets in its present form. It will be up to the Regimental Associations or individual groups to arrange any future Cyprus Veterans parades at the NMA .

As of today, David is stepping down from his present position in the organising of the parades due to ill health. During the service a fly past of a RAF aircraft took place after which the last post was played, wreaths were then laid, and the parade started to come to an end with photos be taken and I said my goodbyes and thanked David on behalf of the RMPA. Sue and I then walked over to Foxy (Our Memorial Plot) and tidied the wreaths up.



David Littlemore. Les Cooper

## **Russel Aston Memorial Plaque**

Earlier this year whilst shopping in Swadlincote Derbyshire, Sue and I noticed that the memorial plaque in memory of Russel, which is situated above the lift, that goes from the High street to Morrison's needed cleaning. The plaque is in remembrance of CPL Russel Aston (Royal Military Police) who was killed in the Iraqi War.

In late May again being in Swadlincote Sue noticed that the plaque appeared to have been defaced either by someone trying to clean it with the wrong materials or by vandalism. Sue told me about the state of the plaque, and I took a photo showing the damage. Not knowing who had erected the plaque, I made enquires at Morrisons and also the local RBL branch, whilst Sue enquired at the local information centre, however we could not discover who was responsible for the maintenance.

I spoke to Bob Potts by phone, who requested I send him the photo as he was going to Southwick Park for a CBF meeting and whilst there he would ask the Regimental Secretary, Col Jeremy Green if consideration could be given to refurbishment of the plaque, Jeremy readily agreed to this request. In the mean time the National Secretary, Peter Vorberg wrote to the CEO of Morrisons asking for permission for the Plaque to be refurbished.

Whilst waiting for information on who erected the plaque, Sue and I had a short holiday in the highlands. On our return and going into Swadlincote we were waiting for the lift to Morrisons and Sue looked up and noticed the plaque had been refurbished and returned to its original place.

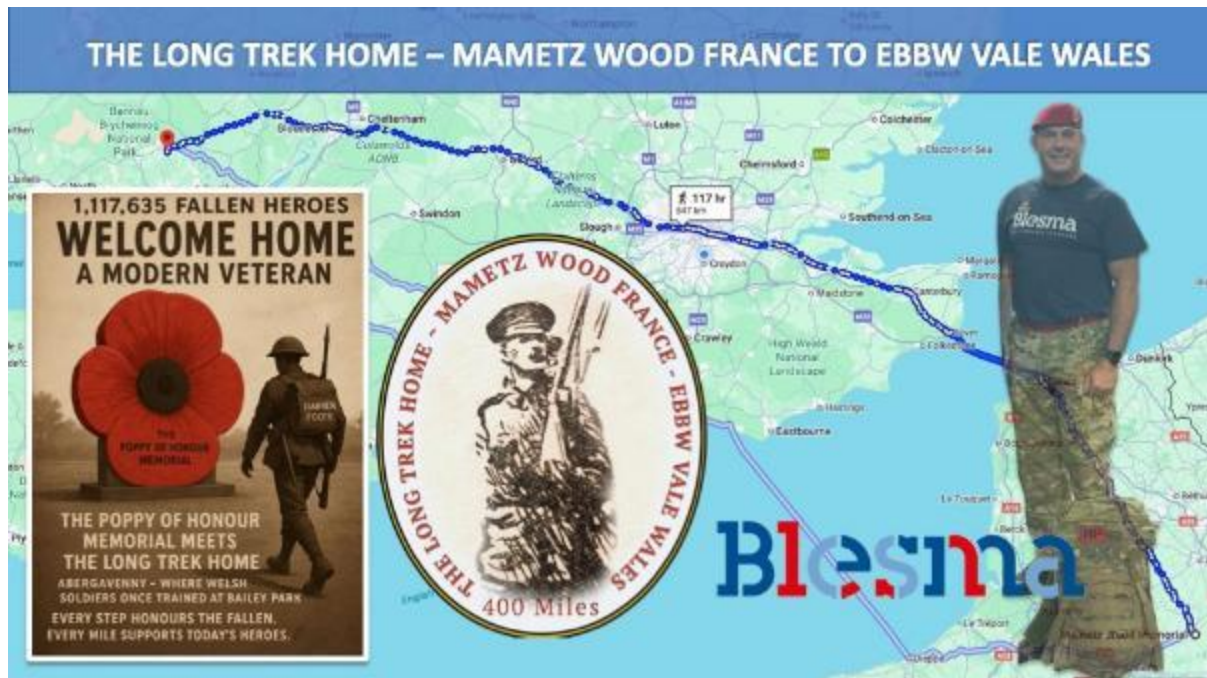
Sue enquired at the information centre and on speaking to the staff they said that after we left the first time they sent an email to the council informing them about the plaque. Despite further enquires with other agencies we could not discover who completed the refurbishment, we can only assume that it



was done by South Derbyshire District Council. Sue thanked the staff at the information centre for thier asistance and asked them to thank the council on our behalf. I suppose we will never find out for sure who completed the work but if you ever need something doing akk everyone you know, someone will be able to help.

### **The Long Trek Home - 400 Mile Charity Walk**

Darren Foote is taking on an epic challenge – walking 400 miles in full kit from Mametz Wood in France all the way back to Ebbw Vale to honour the bravery of Welsh soldiers at the Battle of the Somme and raise money for Blesma – The Limbless Veterans Charity. He sets off on 1st September and hopes to finish by 14th September – covering around 40 miles a day. If you are able , Please show your support with a small donation:



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