



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



October 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.**

1 Military Police Brigade.

From 1 October, 1 MP Brigade formally transfers under the tactical command of HQ ARRC – NATO's Strategic Reserve Corps.

This change strengthens our ability to deliver integrated policing and protection effects across NATO, from Corps level down. It's about ensuring commanders have the assurance, freedom of action, and survivability they need for success on operations.

Credible warfighting underpins credible deterrence — and Military Policing is now firmly positioned at the heart of NATO's warfighting capability.

The future of Military Policing is operational.

The future is expeditionary.

The future is part of the Army's fighting edge.

PM(A) said:

"This is an exciting step, and I am grateful to all who are driving the change with such professionalism and energy. The future of Army policing is operational, expeditionary, and firmly part of the Army's fighting edge."



Danish Members of HQ ARRC.

Danish staff officers from the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps UK HQ at Imjin Barracks, Gloucester, came to the Arboretum to commemorate fallen comrades at the Basra Memorial Wall.

During Operation Telic, the invasion of Iraq by a United States-led international coalition, a Danish battalion served as part of the British Brigade from 2003 to 2011.

On 1 October 2005, twenty years ago today, First Lieutenant Bjarke Kirkmand Olsen was killed by an improvised explosive device while patrolling Highway 1, just north of Basra.

He served as a platoon commander in the mechanised infantry company under then-Major Jesper Stroier and alongside then-First Lieutenant Lars Bossen, both of whom are currently serving at HQ ARRC.

First Lieutenant Olsen's name is inscribed on the Basra Memorial Wall alongside the names of the UK Armed Forces personnel, a Ministry of Defence civilian, and members of Coalition Forces – including seven Danish service personnel - who were killed whilst under United Kingdom Command during the six years of conflict.

The original memorial was built in Basra in 2006 by members of the Royal Engineers. It was dismantled and reconstructed at the Arboretum by British soldiers from 37th Armoured Engineer Squadron in a personal gesture to their fallen comrades.



Major Jesper Stroier and First Lieutenant Lars Bossen, both of whom are currently serving at HQ ARRC.

2025 Poppy Pins

Still time to order yours via the link. Payment is by PayPal, Apple Pay, Debit or Credit Card.

The cost of each Poppy Pin is £5.50 with £2.00 for 2nd Class UK postage. For overseas purchases please email PoppyPins@RMPA.Org.UK All proceeds will go to the Royal Military Police Association Registered Charity number: 261630, with a donation also made to the RMP CBF.



RMP Poppy PIN



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

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.

Remembrance Weekend Pre-Event Drinks

For those attending Remembrance Events in the Capital this year, London Branch of the RMPA are hosting welcome drinks at the Civil Service Club on the Friday evening. All are welcome if you are in London for the weekend, either attending the Field of Remembrance Service at Westminster Abbey on the Saturday morning or participating in the RBL Cenotaph Parade on the Sunday. Come and join us for a social gathering all are welcome. Further details from Sean Taylor, The RMPA Vice Chair. vice.chair@rmpa.org.uk

The opening of the Royal British Legion (RBL) Field of Remembrance 06 November 2025

Westminster Abbey Remembrance Garden is to be opened by His Majesty The King or His representative. This event is being coordinated by Peter Vorberg, the Association's National Secretary. **This is a ticketed event.** secretary@rmpa.org.uk

RMP / MPS Memorial Service Saturday 8 November 2025.

Attendance at this event is open to all serving or retired members and their families, tickets are not required, and the service begins at 1200hrs. It is recommended that you arrive at Westminster Abbey by 1130hrs in order for any security checks to be completed. Afterwards attendees normally gather at the Westminster Arms for lamp swinging and reunion type chat.

RMPA Attendance at the Cenotaph Parade 9 Nov 2025.

We have now used all of our allocation for the above parade. Thank you to everyone that responded quickly and made this job so much easier. If you have not received an email confirmation from the RBL let me know and I will chase it up. You should receive your tickets and joining instructions from the RBL by 31 Oct 25. If you have not received them, please check your junk mail first and then let me know. Any queries about any of the remembrance events, please give me a call. I look forward to seeing you all on the day.

Alternative service in London.

Sean Taylor will be hosting an alternative Parade in London on Sunday 09 Nov 25, details from . vice.chair@rmpa.org.uk seanetaylor3130@gmail.com.

Useful Information Regarding Free Travel for Remembrance Services.

Travel arrangements for attendance at remembrance services. The following is an extract from the RBL concerning free travel. **It is your responsibility to check before you travel, it is an offence to travel without proper authorisation or a valid ticket.**

Rail Travel on Remembrance Sunday

The Rail Delivery Group has agreed travel arrangements for Remembrance Sunday events this year for serving military personnel and veterans in line with previous years. Train operating companies **can** offer the following free travel:

Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph:

One Standard Class Return journey between a 'home' station in Great Britain and any London Terminal. Travel is permitted to any London Terminal station on either Saturday 8 or Sunday 9 November, returning on Sunday 9 November only.

As usual, free travel is allowed for current serving Armed Forces personnel in uniform or serving military personnel and veterans on production of the following:

A current MOD90 Ministry of Defence-issued identity card.

A Veterans Railcard, Veterans Oyster card, Ministry of Defence-issued Veterans ID or other form of identification showing the customer is a veteran (e.g., proof of pension).

As in previous years, this does not apply to companions/spouses or dependents, and free travel is not permitted on any other day.

Rest of Great Britain:

As in previous years, free return travel to attend a Service of Remembrance outside of London will be offered on Sunday 9 November only.

Poppy Cabs.

Poppy Cabs - Remembrance Sunday free taxi service on Sunday 9th November 2025

Poppy Cabs availability has become something that is, for many wishing to attend, an integral part of the decision to attend the annual Remembrance Sunday Service and the Royal British Legion's March Past the Cenotaph. Indeed, especially for those wheelchair users, it would be almost impossible to attend without the help provided by London's taxi service.

There are between 700 and 1000 free taxi journeys in just two hours for the veterans going to and from Horse Guards Parade with drivers, knowledge students and family members helping to marshal the event. Many drivers give up their day entirely for this service with others providing free service from the normal taxi ranks.

We will have our 'turn up and go' hub locations which includes:

- Victory Services Club
- Union Jack Club
- King's Cross (main line)
- Liverpool Street
- Paddington (main line)
- Fenchurch Street
- London Bridge
- Victoria (main line)
- Victoria Coach Station

- Waterloo (main line)
- Euston
- Marylebone

The majority of veterans are taken to Admiralty Arch for the Royal British Legion's March Past the Cenotaph, but some are taken to other locations such as Westminster Abbey, Hyde Park Corner or Grosvenor Gardens where there are special services. Return journeys start from Westminster Bridge where taxis are lined up to take veterans back to their various locations with a small pickup point at Admiralty Arch for wheelchair users.

There are a number of pre-booked special pickups for wheelchair users, those with mobility issues and some larger groups. To allow sufficient time to allocate drivers this service must be booked by email to poppycab@virginmedia.com or mike@mikehughes.org.uk no later than end of day, Thursday 6th November.

There is no single organisation that organises the Poppy Cab service. The drivers provide their taxis and their time free of charge to the veterans. The independent coordinator prior to the event is **Mike Hughes** (mike@mikehughes.org.uk) who matches drivers with special need users. On the actual day there are a number of drivers, knowledge students and family members who marshal the event, helping veterans into the taxis at each pick up point to ensure a smooth journey for those attending the Remembrance Sunday service and March Past the Cenotaph. Funded entirely by the drivers themselves, this is seen, alongside events organised by The Taxi Charity and others, as one of the highlights of the taxi trade year when taxi drivers make a special effort to pay back part of the debt owed to our military veterans. We are intending to have vintage taxis take part in the event, adding to the experience for those attending the event. Although the Chelsea Pensioners, resplendent in their scarlet uniforms are represented by a group that march in the general parade, a number of residents of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea that are unable to stand for any length of time are catered for by specially detailed Poppy Cabs that collect them from Chelsea, transport them to and from Westminster Bridge where they can mark the eleventh hour.

All London taxis are wheelchair accessible, a feature much appreciated by many of those attending the Remembrance Sunday service and March Past the Cenotaph in Whitehall. You can follow Poppy Cabs on X (twitter) [@PoppyCabs](https://twitter.com/PoppyCabs)

For further information on Poppy Cabs only, contact **Mike Hughes** (preferably by SMS or e-mail) on [07973 430022](tel:07973430022) or mike@mikehughes.org.uk or PoppyCab@virginmedia.com

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

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.

Contact The Trustees.

Name	Position	E mail	Branch
Bob Potts	Chair	potts8@me.com chair@rmpa.org.uk	Derby Tel. 07931 723206
Sean Taylor	Vice Chair	seanetaylor3130@gmail.com . vice.chair@rmpa.org.uk	London
Peter Vorberg	Secretary	secretary@rmpa.org.uk	London
Taff Pickering	Treasurer	rmpatreasurer7@gmail.com treasurer@rmpa.org.uk	SIB
Jimmy Walker	Trustee	Jimmywalk86@hotmail.co.uk trustee.NI@rmpa.org.uk	NI
Steve McManus	Trustee	bluebear21@btinternet.com trustee.wales@rmpa.org.uk	Wales
Stuart Reilly	Trustee	Stuart.reilly@rmpa.org.uk	Solent
Irene Furlong	Trustee	I_furlong2005@hotmail.com trustee.scotland@rmpa.org.uk	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.

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 80th 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 on 11 June 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			
06 Nov 25	Opening of the Garden of Remembrance.	Westminster Abbey.	Peter Vorberg will be the RMPA lead for this event. secretary@rmpa.org.uk
07 Nov 25	Pre Remembrance Gathering	Civil Services Club. London	vice.chair@rmpa.org.uk Sean Taylor.
08 Nov 25	RMP MPS Memorial service	Westminster Abbey. Memorial Garden.	potts8@me.com . chair@rmpa.org.uk
09 Nov 25	RBL Remembrance Parade and Muster	Cenotaph.	potts8@me.com . chair@rmpa.org.uk
05 Dec 25	NI Branch Lunch	Lisburn	Jimmywalk86@hotmail.co.uk . Secretary.NorthernIreland@RMPA.org.uk
07 Dec 25	West Yorkshire Xmas Lunch	Guide Post Hotel, Bradford	Secretary.WestYorkshire@RMPA.org.uk
17 Dec 25	Salisbury Plain Branch Xmas Lunch	Salisbury	editrmpj@tiscali.co.uk johnbaber@hotmail.co.uk
2026			
17 Jan 25	Birmingham Branch Post Christmas Lunch	Birmingham	Trevor.bassett@btopenworld.com . Details from Trevor.
Feb 26	Tower Of London Parade	Tower Of London	Vice.chair@rmpa.org This event is likely to be cancelled.
07 Mar 26	WRAC Provost Reunion Dinner	Cambridge	Jacjun3@aol.com
24 – 26 Apr 26	RMPA AGM and Reunion	Cardiff.	Secretary.southwales@rmpa.org.uk . Full details on Op Order attached.
30 May 26	SIB Dinner	Holiday Inn. Rugby	secretary@rmpasib.co.uk entertainments@rmpasib.co.uk
11 Jun 26	80 th Anniversary	Southwick Park	Details to follow soon. Date TBC
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	

Salisbury Plain Branch Christmas Lunch.

The Salisbury Plain Branch Christmas Luncheon is to be held in the White Hart Hotel at 1230hrs on Wednesday 17th December. The cost is to be £35 per person for the 3-course lunch and £30 per person for the 2-course lunch.

If you wish to attend this event would you please contact, John Baber or Stuart McLean by **28th November** This can be done by email on editrmpj@tiscali.co.uk or johnbaber@hotmail.co.uk .As usual they will be holding a Branch Fund Raising raffle for which they ask that you bring a crisp £10 note with you to enter and a suitable raffle prize !

RMPA SIB Branch Dinner – Saturday 30th May 2026.

From Donna Longhurst MBE. Entertainments Member RMPA SIB Branch. On behalf of the President and Committee I have the pleasure to advise you that the annual RMPA SIB Branch dinner will take place on Saturday 30th May 2026.

Returning to the Holiday Inn Hotel Rugby – Northampton, M1, Junction 18, Crick, NN6 7XR where there is ample free parking and Ev chargers at the hotel.

It has been confirmed that Brig Kris Rotchell, Provost Marshall Serious Crime will be our guest of honour.

As agreed at the 2025 AGM there has been a slight increase to the meal cost and as ever there has been an inevitable rise in price for the accommodation. These costs still provide value for money and include full breakfast, VAT and use of the leisure facilities, a swimming pool with sauna and a small cardio-vascular fitness room. The rates will be as follows:

Three courses, including port will be £37.00. however, there is a £3.50 supplement should you desire a cheese platter, rather than dessert (Total £40.50).

Standard Double room on the Friday 29th May is £95.00 per room including breakfast.

Standard Double room on Saturday 30th May is at £102.00 per room including breakfast.

Additionally, 10% discount will be offered on all bar prices on the Saturday night for all members attending the dinner and 20% discount on pre-ordered wines (pre-order the afternoon prior to the event as any wine ordered at the dinner will be at normal price).

Your hotel room booking can be made either via this [Booking link](#) which is now live.

Or by calling Central Reservations on 00800 80 80 0800. Please quote RM1. The hotel can be contacted directly via 0333 3209 349.

Whilst your credit card details will be taken to secure the booking, no deposit will be required for the room reservation, as individual accounts are to be settled by the members at check out. Cancelling your reservation before 4:00 pm on Friday 29 May 2026 will result in no charge.

Early booking is advisable. Any rooms booked after the 17 Apr 26 will be charged at the hotels rate and not the agreed rate for this event.

To book for the dinner, please complete the attached menu options choice and return it to me, preferably electronically to the following email address entertainments@rmpasib.co.uk by Friday 8th May 2025 or alternately via the address shown at the head of this letter. I will send confirmation that your menu choices have been received. If you do not receive an acknowledgement from me within 7 days of sending choices, please contact the secretary secretary@rmpasib.co.uk. In the event of a cancellation, money paid for meals will be returned, provided I am advised by Fri 1 May 26.

Payment by bank transfer is preferred. You can do this on-line, via telephone or in person at your own bank. Use the following ref: surname-dinner26.

Proof of monetary transfer to be provided with menu choices please.

HSBC Bank

Account name: RMPA – SIB Branch

Sort Code: 40-36-15

Account no: 32248190.

On the day, an 'Events' notice will be published on the 'A' frame located in the foyer areas. The AGM will commence at 1500hrs in the Stanford Suite.

The evening function will be 1800hrs for an 1845hrs start. The function will be held in the Albany Suite Function Room. Dress: Dinner Jacket / Mess Dress or Lounge Suit, Miniature Medals may be worn or alternatively Full Medals.

There will be a raffle, and any donation of raffle prizes would be appreciated. There will also be a DJ & music after the dinner for frivolity and dancing.

I trust this letter has all the information you require, however should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by email at entertainments@rmpasib.co.uk, or by telephone on 07894 409999. I look forward to seeing you there.

The annual dinner of 2025 was well supported, enjoyed by all and it was lovely to have some new members attend. The President and Committee hope that the 2026 dinner will be given the same support.

Finally, I am always happy to receive any thoughts/suggestions/feedback, please do feel free to approach/contact me. Any suggestion will be considered and put to the committee and indeed discussed at the AGM.

National Memorial Arboretum

Experience a magical winter's evening together discovering incredible stories told through colour, light, and sound.

Something extraordinary awaits around every bend of Illuminated Arboretum, the 1.5-mile spectacular winter light trail around the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire - from dazzling installations that tell important stories, to fun hands-on elements you can control and touch.

And this year, as we mark 80 years since the end of the Second World War, we'll be shining a special light on pivotal moments from 1945.

Illuminated Arboretum will run from 5 – 22 December. Book now for a magical, meaningful, and memorable evening that everyone in the family will enjoy (under 5s free).

<https://www.thenma.org.uk/.../events/illuminated-arboretum>

Remembrance Sunday 09 Nov 25

Bring your group to the National Memorial Arboretum this Remembrance Sunday (9 November) to pay tribute to those who have served and sacrificed for our Nation.

The year the service will be particularly poignant as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Groups of ten or more can book a space on our dedicated Remembrance Sunday groups package.

On the day you'll be welcomed into Aspects with a warm drink. From here, you can either attend the Remembrance Sunday service at the base of the Armed Forces Memorial or watch a live broadcast of the service on screens from the comfort of Aspects, our award-winning events venue.

After the service has drawn to a close, you can reflect with friends over a delicious, homemade two-course lunch served in Aspects, which offers stunning views over the 150-acres of memorials, gardens, and woodlands at the Arboretum.

The Remembrance Sunday package costs £36 per person and is for groups of 10 or more people.

You can book by calling us on 01283 245 100 or by sending us an email to groups@thenma.org.uk

Visitors not travelling in group are welcome to attend the Remembrance Sunday Service, which is free to attend. We recommend booking parking in advance to guarantee entry on this day.

Armistice Day Service of Remembrance.

Will take place on Tuesday 11 November on the Armed Forces Memorial at the Arboretum.

As capacity is limited, you will need a ticket to watch the service on top of the Armed Forces Memorial. You can apply for up to four tickets via our website and tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

<https://www.thenma.org.uk/.../events.../events/armistice-day>

If you don't have a ticket, you will still be able to watch and take part in the service from Heroes' Square, where our Armistice Day Service of Remembrance will be shown on a large screen. Please visit our website to find out more about the service and how to apply for tickets.

RTTW 04 Oct 25.

What a day this was, We welcomed thousands of 'Waller's' on motorcycles to the Arboretum today for Ride To The Wall (RTTW) 2025, a very special and unique Remembrance event that we look forward to every year.

Since 2008, this incredible community has been gathering here each year to remember all those whose names are engraved on the walls of the Armed Forces Memorial, to pay tribute to fallen service personnel who 'can no longer ride by our side'.

And, since that first ride, the Ride To The Wall community has raised £1.83 million for the Arboretum, helping it to grow into the extraordinary place it is today. We are so grateful for their ongoing support and friendship.

NI Branch.

RMPA NI members enjoyed an excellent weekend at the Rats Reunion in Birmingham 3-5 October.



L-R Paul Jones, John Turley, Andy Moffat, Alan Officer, John Mills.

On Thursday 2 Oct 25, at the invitation of Lt Col M A Boyd, CO 1 Regt RMP, Branch members of RMPA NI were honoured to parade alongside members of 174 Pro Coy RMP to mark the Corps official withdrawal of its permanent operational presence in Northern Ireland after many decades of steadfast service.

Under the command of Maj M Keenan RMP, OC 174 Pro Coy RMP, a complement of mainland-based Officers and NCOs supplemented the last 5 remaining RMP Detachment NCO's based in Thiepval Bks, Lisburn, to carry out a formal Corps Flag Lowering Ceremony. This modest yet dignified and deeply respectful event commenced at 1545 hrs outside the RMP Detachment offices in Thiepval Bks. Under leaden grey skies that had threatened torrential rain all day, with the RMPA NI Standard on parade and to the skirling and emotionally stirring accompaniment of a lone bagpipe, all attendees advanced to their parade positions. As befitting the occasion, the actual ceremony was preceded with reflective speeches by Lt Col Boyd and Capt (Retd) G Woodcock, Hon Life President RMPA NI Branch.

Flying at full mast, and once more to the melancholic strain of the bagpipe, the Corps Flag was officially and reverentially lowered, folded, and presented to the CO for safe keeping. Thereafter, the parade retreated to not only mark the conclusion of a solemn occasion but also celebrate the end of a proud and successful period in the history of RMP in Northern Ireland.

The full day concluded with a splendid Regimental Dinner attended by the entire serving RMP cohort and 15 RMPA NI Branch members. In a closing address to the guests Maj Keenan spoke graciously about the strong and enduring bonds between the serving and veteran RMP community, but in particular how the constancy of support and camaraderie extended by RMPA NI has exemplified the ethos of the Association.



RMP NI Disbandment Parade. Address by The President, RMPA NI Branch.

The regimental formalities we observe this afternoon signify a successful conclusion to the many decades of resolute RMP service that have played a crucial role in restoring and maintaining peace and stability in this corner of the United Kingdom.

For any member of RMP who has served in Northern Ireland, either during the 3 decades of what are now euphemistically referred to as the Troubles, which claimed three and a half thousand lives, or during the last 27 years of the ongoing and at times hard fought peace process, our presence here today marks a significant moment in the history of our Corps, and in particular the first Regiment RMP. It not only recognises a job well done, but more importantly portends the essential strategic redeployment of finite RMP resources away from the Province.

In August 1969 British troops, including a small complement of RMP were first deployed to Northern Ireland to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which was overwhelmed by civil rights protests and sectarian violence. As this situation deteriorated into a widespread and long-term period of civil disorder, RMP was pushed to the forefront of military and policing efforts to restore peace and interdict lawless republican and loyalist paramilitary activities.

It should be remembered that in 1969, the entire strength of our Corps was broadly as it is today, around 1000 personnel, with the majority being stationed in Germany as part of our commitment to the BAOR. However, by the end of 1970, in a direct response to meet ever-increasing levels of daily violence and resultant burden on overstretched security forces, RMP numbers in Northern Ireland had been grown to more than 600, operating in 7 independent Provost Companies.

With no sign of terrorist activity abating, in 1971 the Corps established the first Regiment Royal Military Police, which became our first battalion sized unit to bear the Royal prefix that had been graciously granted the Corps by His Majesty King George the sixth in 1946. The Regiment continued to expand to meet an ever-increasing demand for its specialist military policing services, which eventually led to it being segmented into the first and second Regiments RMP, with a combined strength of around 900 personnel.

Throughout the Troubles RMP not only successfully policed the more than 20,000 regular and UDR service men and women who at any one

time were based in Northern Ireland, but it also adapted and developed its people to provide additional and essential counterinsurgency skillsets to support the combined efforts of the security forces tasked with defeating domestic terrorism. Operating in open urban and rural environments but ever vigilant against terrorist attack, these capabilities included, Traffic Control, Road Checkpoints, Mobile and Foot

Patrols, Arrest and Find Teams, Close Protection, SIB secondments to CID, Courts and Witness Section and various other specialist duties.

RMP has a record of exemplary operational service to this Province. Working in a hostile environment for more than 30 years and with a minimum of human and technical resources, RMP not only always delivered anticipated outcomes but also routinely exceeded expectations, very often in the face of life-threatening situations.

This simple fact is best evidenced by the numerous citations for outstanding bravery, including numerous military honours and decorations that were awarded to members of RMP for various acts of courage during the conflict years. In discharging their duties numerous RMP comrades were both physically and mentally wounded as a result of terrorist attacks. And we will honour and never forget those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives:- LCpl William Joliffe, Sgt Sheridan Young, Cpl Fred Lea, and Sgt Dave Ross, We will remember them.

As we close this particular chapter in our illustrious history, we who remain in Northern Ireland thank you for your continued service to our Sovereign, Nation, and Corps. We know that the future well-being of our cap badge is secure in your safe keeping, and that whatever challenges are presented to you, all will be met with the highest professional commitment and determination to uphold the best traditions of our Corps. Exemplo Ducemus – By Example Shall We Lead! May God Speed your path and keep you all safe from harm.



Branch Contacts.

You will notice that this is the old list of contacts new contact emails are copied below , I will remove this list in the next edition so if you need to copy them do it now. If you would like details on becoming an area contact or resurrecting a branch, please contact myself or Peter, 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	Andrew.wayland@sky.com .
Aldershot.	Chris Martin	cchmRMP@outlook.com .
Birmingham Central	Trevor Bassett	Trevor.bassett@btopenworld.com .
Black Country		

Bristol		
Buckinghamshire		
Cheshire & North Wales	George Woodall	gowoodall35@gmail.com .
Colchester	Dave Howard	dnh595@gmail.com
Coventry & Warwickshire	Julian Grubb	Julian.grubb1@btinternet.com
CP	secretary@rmpa.org.uk	secretary@rmpa.org.uk
Cyprus		
Derby	Kathryn Potts	kathryn.potts@me.com . Secretary.derby@rmpa.org.uk
Dorset		
East Sussex	Derek Mead	derek-mead@sky.com .
Fenland & District		
Gloucester		
Hertfordshire & Essex	Ernest Large	Ernest.large82@gmail.com
Hull & East Riding	Pete Watson	hullrmpa@gmail.com .
Isle of Man		
Isle Of Wight	John Dugdale	johndugdale306@btinternet.com .
Kent	Jonathan Webb	jonathanandliz@btinternet.com .
London	Sean Taylor	seantaylor3130@gmail.com . Secretary.london@rmpa.org.uk
Manchester	John Tasker	John.tasker@gmail.com
Merseyside	Chris Broadley	icb@talktalk.net
Mounted Troop	Sandy Low	Sandy.low57@gmail.com .
MPLEMC	Stuart Hamilton	secretary.mplemc@gmail.com .
North America	Don Hood	dhood8866@gmail.com
North East	Bob Hodgson	bobhrmpa@mail.com
North Yorkshire		
Northern Ireland	Jimmy Walker	Jimmywalk86@hotmail.co.uk .
Norwich Breakfast Club	Liz Tyler	Contact only no branch.
Republic of Ireland		
Salisbury Plain	John Baber	johnbaber@hotmail.co.uk
Scotland	Andy Robertson	rmpascotland@gmail.com . Secretary.scotland@rmpa.org.uk
Solent	Bob Eggelton	roberteggelton@btinternet.com .
South Wales	Kath Jennings	secretary@rmpasouthwales.org.uk
South Yorkshire		
Special Investigation Branch	Phil Ellis	secretary@rmpasib.co.uk .
Taunton	Stewart Leach	rmpataunton@yahoo.com .
West Sussex	Bill Watkins	we.watkins@btopenworld.com .
West Yorkshire	Jim Nylan	James.nylan@icloud.com .
Western Australia	Eric Heath	Eric.heath@bigpond.com

WRAC Provost	Kath Potts	Contact for info only. Will feed into Facebook Page.
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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
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Solent	Bob Egelton	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 Wales.

Happy birthday Owen. 106 on 19 Oct 25, the oldest person in Wales and certainly the oldest Redcap.



Helping Owen to celebrate his birthday and showing how the beret should be worn!



Luke Molino, Dave Hawke, Steve McManus, Taff May, Gary Laugharne, Darren Foote.

Request for Assistance.

John Atkinson asks. Does anyone remember **Mark Kettle** joined RMP from Juniors in 1976. His wife is reaching out to any member who could give her any information on his service. Mark is suffering from serious life-threatening health issues and can no longer communicate. Any information direct to John or via Peter Vorberg.

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 all are welcome to attend more details in due course.

HQ PM(A) IIA newsletter

The September 2025 edition of the HQ PM(A) IIA newsletter is now available on the RHQ RMP Website. The aim of the newsletter is to provide you with the latest information concerning the Independent Inquiry relating to Afghanistan and to remind you of the support that is available to you.

This newsletter will now be circulated quarterly and the next edition will be in December 2025, however please do continue to reach out to the RMP Inquiry team at: ARMYPM-IIAGroupmailbox@mod.gov.uk for any support that you may require.

Annual Reunion Weekend and Drumhead Service, 24-26 April 2026 – Cardiff.

The admin order for the above event as now been published by South Wales Branch, it is a very comprehensive document which should answer any questions you may have. A copy for information is attached with this Newsletter. The branch has negotiated very favourable rates at the Angel hotel for all attendees. This promises to be an excellent weekend hopefully you will be able to give it your full support.

London Branch.

London Branch is seeking a **Deputy Standard Bearer** to support ceremonial duties whilst their current Standard Bearer, Roger, is laid up.

This is a vital and visible role within the Association – representing the RMP, London Branch and our fallen comrades at key occasions including:

- Regimental Remembrance events
- The Tower of London Parade
- St Pauls
- National and City of London ceremonial occasions

You will be joining a proud tradition of service and remembrance. Expenses are covered, and training and support are provided.

If can hold a standard with steady hands and steady heart – we would like to hear from you.

All enquiries to:

Alex Flach chair.london@rmpa.org.uk or **Sean Taylor** vicechair@rmpa.org.uk .

The RMP Museum.

A new arrival here at the RMP Museum. At first, it doesn't look like much, but the archive of Sgt (later RSM) Charles Skinner fills in some rare blanks in our reserve collection.

His archive contains an original, 1938 dated, Map. Annotated in May/June 1940 the map covers his Provost Company's hectic retreat from Brussels to Dunkirk via Tournai and La Bassee, where he liberated the small crucifix from a billet after an attack by German Stukas.

There is also a receipt and documents for 2 German Prisoners of War (POWs), captured on 31st May, and a rare photograph of him on his motorcycle on the continent in 1939/1940. The map, receipts and photo are now some of the only items we have on the CMP in the BEF in 1940!



IOW Branch.

John Dugdale doing his bit as RBL standard bearer for Ryde IoW. Tried a disguise but is still recognisable even in his blue beret representing the RBL, well done John.



Jeff Gantschuk, County vice chair of S&W Yorkshire.

Jeff is not just our National Standard Bearer he is also county vice chair of the R B L. I was sent the following information and thought it would be of interest. Jeff gave the following speech at a dedication ceremony in Yorkshire; it reminds us of what the RBL is all about and gets Jeff's picture in the Newsletter in a different beret and not carrying our standard.



Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for allowing me, on behalf of the Royal British Legion to be here with you today. I'm Jeff Gantschuk, County vice chair of S&W Yorkshire.

The British Legion was formed shortly after World War I, in 1921 when four ex-service organisations joined together in a spirit of placing service to others before self.

A Royal charter was granted in 1925, accompanied by invaluable patronage from royal circles. Of the men involved in the early years of the British Legion, were Field Marshal Douglas Haig, who stands out as the most influential.

Remarkably, the Legion's purpose has remained unchanged to this day. As it continues to provide help and assistance to the Armed Forces community.

We did not become the Royal British Legion until 1971, under our late Queen, Queen Elizabeth the second.

We are best known for the yearly Poppy Appeal and Remembrance services, of which the Poppy Appeal has just been launched for 2025. The Legion is a campaigning organisation that promotes the welfare and interests of current and former members of the British Armed Forces.

I am well versed in the dedication of Regimental and Legion Standards, but the dedication of 'Name Plates' is a new one on me.

This memorial is our way of preserving part of the London, Midland & Scottish railway's desire to commemorate and remember, their employees who fought in the First World War and by inference, all subsequent armed conflicts. Many of these employees became known as the Bradford Pals, who after initial training were sent to the Somme.

We therefore dedicate this memorial in recognition and remembrance of those who have served this country and those inextricably linked with us across the globe.

National Chair Recruitment Process

As you are all aware the Association needs to look to recruit a replacement myself, I am due to stand down as the National Chair next year in accordance with the Rules of the Association. Historically the potential applicants were recruited from the existing Trustees, however all members of the Association are able to apply for the role. The Trustees have looked at the recruitment process and have put some additional structure to it, which is outlined in the attached document.

We have provided key information on what the role entails so that applicants hopefully have a better understanding of the requirements of the post and the level of commitment needed from them to fulfil the role.

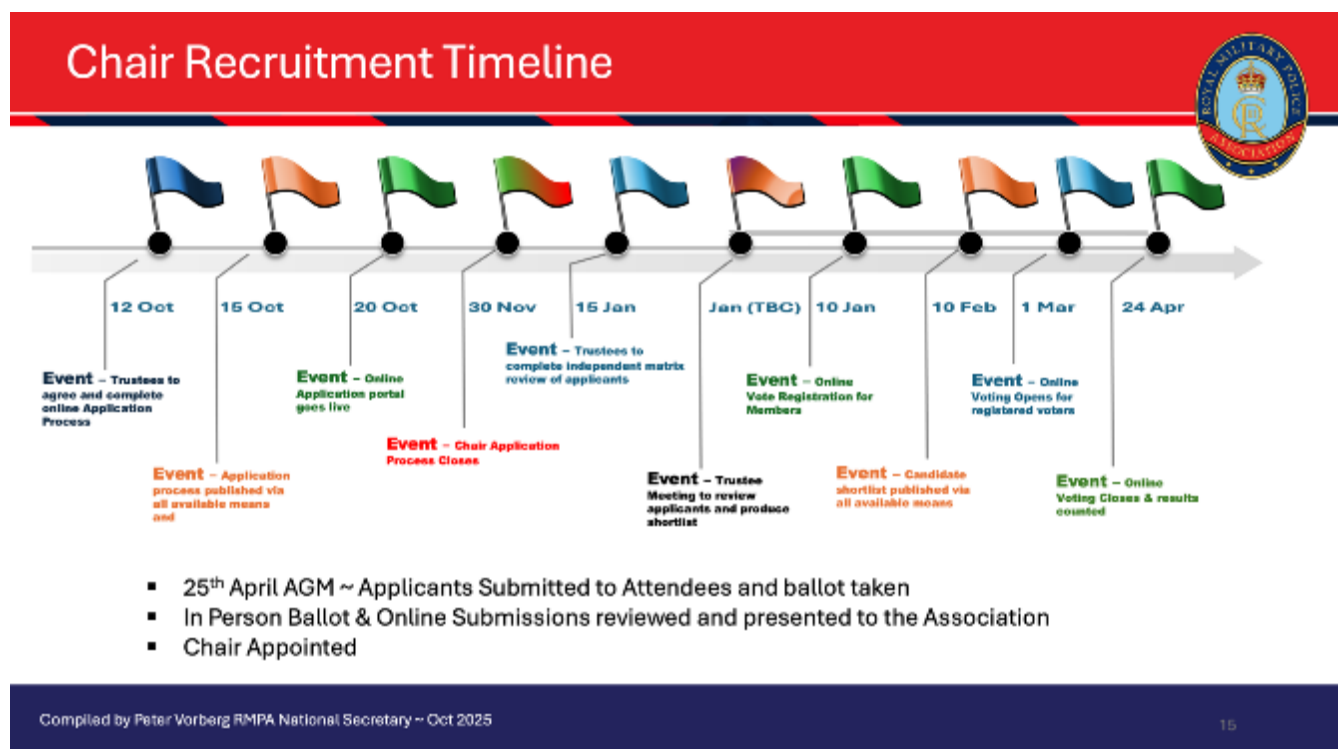
By opening up the application process to the wider community, we may have more applicants, and the Trustees will be responsible for selecting those that we feel best suited to the role to put forward to the Association as prospective candidates.

For the first time, Association members will be able to vote online for their chosen nominee, and we will initiate a voter registration process in the new year to validate users for the online ballot. Members attending the AGM will be able to vote there (only one vote per person) and the result of the combined ballots will be announced at the AGM inline, with the Association Rules.

Applicants will have to be appointed as a Trustee of the Association, with voting also taking place during the AGM. The Chair appointment will be for a period of three years and the Trustee eight.

The national secretary as put additional information on our website on a hidden link, which also contains the Chair Recruitment Process document and additional links. The recruitment timeline is included in the document, which we will endeavour to maintain where possible.

<https://rmpa.org.uk/rmpa-national-chair-recruitment-process/> I would be grateful if you can cascade the information out to all Members at the earliest opportunity and if anyone has any questions, they can contact the National Secretary or the Vice Chair.



Western Australia Branch

Although on the other side of the world, numbers of ex Corps members still like to get together. Here is a couple of pictures from the Western Australia Branch of the Association attending their AGM dinner. During the evening, the following Branch members were presented with certificates of appreciation and an Association Plaque: Brian Griffiths for service as the Branch President (2007 - 2025), Eric Heath as Branch Secretary (2012 - 2025) and Trevor Margetson as Branch Treasurer (2014 - 2025). The Association would like to thank them for their service over the years.



Eric Heath was unable to attend in person, so his certificate and plaque were delivered to him at home by Alison.

Lest we forget.

On November 7th, 1920, in strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme.

None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why.

The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-Ter Noise. Once there, the bodies were draped with the union flag.

Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a Colonel Gell selected one body at random. The other three were reburied.

A French Honour Guard was selected and stood by the coffin overnight of the chosen soldier overnight. On the morning of the 8th of November, a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court arrived and the Unknown Warrior was placed inside.

On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was inscribed:

"A British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for King and Country".

On the 9th of November, the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse-drawn carriage through Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the quayside.

There, he was saluted by Marechal Foch and loaded onto HMS Vernon bound for Dover. The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths, surrounded by the French Honour Guard.

Upon arrival at Dover, the Unknown Warrior was met with a nineteen-gun salute - something that was normally only reserved for Field Marshals.

A special train had been arranged, and he was then conveyed to Victoria Station, London.

He remained there overnight, and, on the morning of the 11th of November, he was finally taken to Westminster Abbey.

The idea of the unknown warrior was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served on the front line during the Great War the union flag he had used as an altar cloth whilst at the front, was the one that had been draped over the coffin.

It was his intention that all of the relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost husband, father, brother, or son...

THIS is the reason we wear poppies.

We do not glorify war.

We remember - with humility - the great and the ultimate sacrifices that were made, not just in this war, but in every war and conflict where our service personnel have fought - to ensure the liberty and freedoms that we now take for granted.

Every year, on the 11th of November, we remember the Unknown Warrior.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.



Birmingham Branch Lunch.

Birmingham Central Branch RMPA will be having their annual luncheon on Saturday 17th January 2026, at the Plough and Harrow Best Western Hotel, Hagley Road Birmingham B16 8LS. The timings are 1300 for seated at 1330 hours.

Members of the RMPA are welcome to join us. This also includes ex RMP both regular and reservists. Should anyone wish to attend please contact Trevor Bassett at trevor.bassett@icloud.com for further information and copy of the menu. The cost for the meal is £29.50 each and accommodation at the hotel is £95.00 for a double room with breakfast.

Dress will be Blazer and Tie and the lady's equivalent.

Derby Branch.

On Thursday 23rd October 2025, several members from Derby Branch RMPA, met at The Boars Head, Draycott-in-the-Clay, for lunch.



We spent a very pleasant couple of hours, at what turned out to be a really nice venue. It will certainly remain on our list of places to re-visit. The Branch try to get together for lunch at least once a quarter, and we'd welcome anybody in the area to join us.

Pictured clockwise L-R: Rick & Steph Lavis; Barry & Dianne Shaw; Les & Sue Cooper; Neil & Julie Brookes; Bob Potts (picture taken by Kath Potts)

Scotland Branch.

Photographs from the Opening of the Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.





Great night at our Annual RMPA Scotland dinner in the Old Waverley, great food, and lovely company. Was lovely to see everyone.



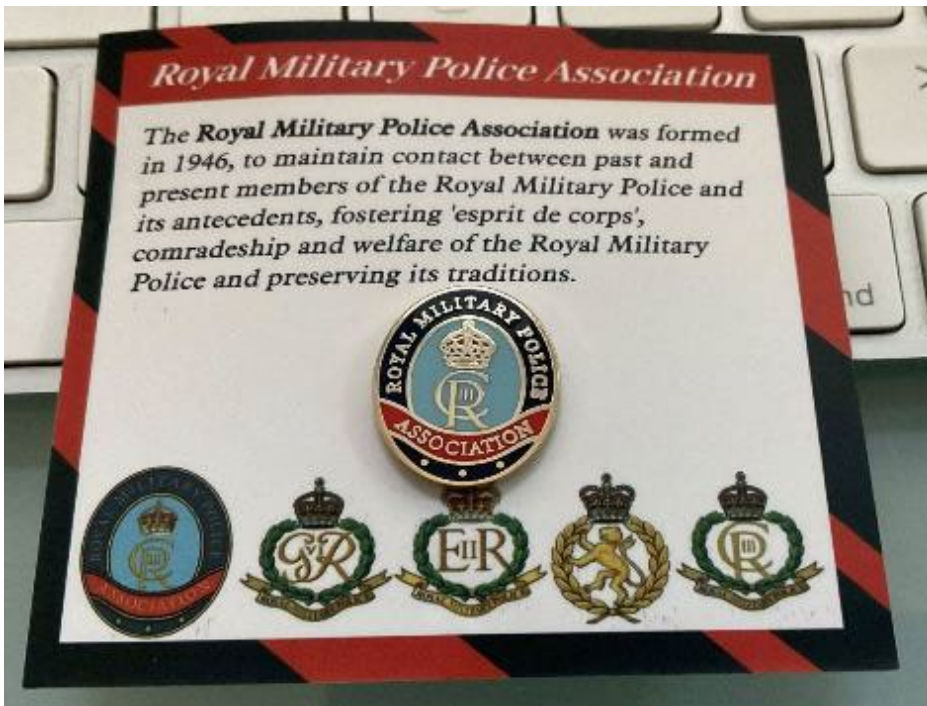
Michael Piotrowski

Simon Elmer and Michael at the All-Souls' Day Ceremony of Homage and Remembrance at the Polish Air Force Cemetery in Newark, Notts.



RMPA Pins

Our new RMPA Pins have just arrived and are on sale via the RMPA Website. They will be sold for £4.50 plus P&P. www.rmpa.org.uk



NE Branch Annual Dinner.



Photographs.

All of the photographs and more are available to view by branch and function on the RMPA website. www.rmpa.org.uk. The website is full of up-to-date information relating to all RMPA matters. Please add names to your photographs whenever possible.

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