



Royal Military Police Association

Hull & East Riding Branch



Minutes of the Branch Meeting Held 3rd November 2010

Members Present:	Bob Hare (RobH); Pete Watson (PW); Fred Hemmerman (FH); Joe Matthews (JM); Steve Woods (SW); Peter Ovis (PO); Ted Johnson (TJ); Dave Emmerson (DE); Tony Steventon (TS); Frank Maunder (FM); Bob Boreland (BB); Craig Hemmerman (CH); June Wilding (JW).
Apologies:	Dave Mitchell (DM); Darren Howlett (DH); John Louis (JL); Andy Doyle (AD); Michael Sutton (MS); Bernard Anson (BA); Mike Walker (MW); Steve Johnson (SJ); Keith Hill (KH); Trevor Goodfellow (TG); Pat Howlett (PH); Phil Newton (PN).

Agenda

- 1.0 Remembrance
- 2.0 Members Present/Apologies received.
- 3.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 4.0 Matters Arising
- 5.0 Absent Friends
- 6.0 Communications Received
- 7.0 CESA Report
- 8.0 Website
- 9.0 Social Events
- 10.0 Any Other Business
- 11.0 Close of Meeting, and date of next meeting.

- 1.0 Remembrance – RobH opened the meeting at 20.01hrs. The Remembrance was observed by all members.
- 2.0 Members Present/Apologies Received as above. AD & MS contacted PW to say that they couldn't attend. DM had rang PW to send his apologies as he is currently on Annual Leave. FH sent apologies from PH, DH, SJ, and BA.
- 3.0 Minutes Of The Last Meeting – TJ proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting where a true and accurate record, this was seconded by JM, all members in favour.
- 4.0 Matters Arising – RobH stated that the venue had been finalised as being at Springhead Golf Club, Willerby. Further details in Section 9.0
- 5.0 Absent friends –
- 6.0 Communications – The Branch had received the following communications:
 - 6.1 A thank you card was received from the family of the Late Geoff and Emily Blakestone that stated as follows:
“Just a thank you for the way you paid tribute to our Mum & Dad, (Em and Geoff Blakeston), at their recent funeral. We are all both deeply moved and gratified by what you all did. Our father was proud to be associated with you

all and having met some of you we can understand why. He was a fine honourable man and we could see he was in good company. Dad's days in the RMP were very significant to him and we know you will remember him fondly. We have many photos and bits of memorabilia to sort through and we are happy to send any photos we think may be of interest to you so you may copy them. Once again, thank you all so very much. I hope we will find a way to stay in touch from time to time. Mike, Dave and Mark Blakestone."

6.2 A email was received from RHQ regarding the forthcoming Freedom of Richmond and Afghan Medal Parade, to be held on the 4th November 2010. This is a Thursday. PW will not be able to attend due to work commitments, DM will still be away on holiday. Anyone wishing to attend this parade should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance.

6.3 An email was received from CPL Kevin Lowes RMP, currently serving on the front line in Afghanistan. It reads as follows:
"I am CPL Kevin Lowes writing to you from Afghanistan. I am currently at Forward Operating Base (FOB) KHAR NIKAH. I am sending this message to thank all of your members on behalf of myself and 156 Pro Coy for your support in sending welfare boxes to our unit. I am currently in close support role patrolling out in the green zone with a company of infantry (IRISH GUARDS) so as you can imagine I'm getting right into the thick of the action. All my unit is doing well and working hard but it's nice to know we have support back home.

Regards,

Kevin"

The Branch Secretary has wrote back to CPL Lowes thanking him for his email and asking that the Branch's good wishes be passed on to 156 Pro Coy. RMP.

6.4 An email was received from Colchester & East Anglia Branch RMPA inviting our Branch Members to their RMPA Annual Weekend Away on Friday 30th September – Monday 3rd October 2011. This trip will be held at Gunton Hall in Lowestoft and will cost £170.00 per person. Members wishing to attend this event, or who just want further information should contact the Branch Secretary.

7.0 CESA Report – TS attended the CESA meeting in DM's absence. TS stated that they had prepared 2000 poppy boxes and last year the raised over £70,000 for RBL. They are also doing a collection for the Ghurkha Trust who has given the RBL their permission to raise money for them. TS further reported that DM will be the Parade leader on the Remembrance Day so we will need a volunteer to lay the RMPA Wreath. TS reported that associations are lacking in numbers and that the RTR are currently down to 10 members. He stated that in Hull there are only 88 members and they are loosing members rapidly.

8.0 Website – PW reported that a new 'Dearly Departed' section has been added to the website. Currently this section has two entries, Hazel Mitchell and Geoff & Emily Blakestone. There are plans in place to add other Branch Members who have passed away, so if any Members have information relating to deceased Members of the Branch please pass this on to the Secretary.

9.0 Social Events-

- 9.1 Ladies Night –the next Ladies night will be held on **Thursday the 25th November 2010**. It was confirmed that the venue was The Springhead Golf Club and will commence at 19.30hrs.

Members are reminded that we normally hold a raffle at these events and donations of raffle prizes would be greatly received. These can be brought either to the next meeting or on the night.

10.0 Any Other business:

- 10.1 Wreath Laying: As DM will be laying the CESA Wreath, a volunteer is needed to lay the wreath. FH volunteered to lay the wreath at Hull on the Branches behalf; TJ will lay the wreath in Beverley.
- 10.2 Branch Members Personnel Files – PW stated that he had made a personnel form for each member of the branch. This was to ensure that all information held about the members was true and accurate. The form included contact information and their military histories. PW stated that although he had planned to bring these to the meeting, he had inadvertently forgotten them and they would therefore be sent with the Branch Meeting Minutes. He asked that Members check the form for any errors or omissions and then sign the forms to confirm that the detail was correct and return the form to him no later than the next Branch Meeting. The forms will make up the contact of the Branch Members Contact Directory and the Branch Members section of the website.
- 10.3 Streetlife Museum Display – TS stated that he will be putting on a display at the Street life museum on both the 13th and 14th November 2010. Members are asked to spare a little time to help TS on the stand which helps to promote both the Branch and the RMP in general.
- 10.4 NVA are laying up their standard in Trinity Church soon and want as many members as possible to attend the event. FH will furnish the branch with further details as soon as he gets them.

- 11.0 The time being 20.32hrs and there being no further business, the meeting was closed by RobH. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st December 2010 at 20.32hrs, at the Police Social Club, Inglemire Lane, Hull.

Agenda for October's Meeting

- 1.0 Remembrance
- 2.0 Members Present / Apologies Received
- 3.0 Minutes Of The Last Meeting
- 4.0 Matters Arising
- 5.0 Absent Friends
- 6.0 Communications
- 7.0 CESA Report
- 8.0 Website
- 9.0 Social Events
 - 9.1 Ladies Night
- 10.0 Any Other Business

In Closing

Times, they are a'changin'! Imagine if you will, how it would be to serve on HMS Trafalgar under Admiral Nelson, in today's armed forces.

Admiral Nelson: "Order the signal, Hardy."

Captain Hardy: "Aye, aye sir."

Nelson: "Hold on, that's not what I dictated to Flagg. What's the meaning of this?"

Hardy: "Sorry sir?"

Nelson (reading aloud): "England expects every person to do his or her duty, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious persuasion or disability.' - What gobbledegook is this?"

Hardy: "Admiralty policy, I'm afraid, sir. We're an equal Opportunities employer now. We had the devil's own job getting 'England' past the censors, lest it be considered racist."

Nelson: "Gadzooks, Hardy. Hand me my pipe and tobacco."

Hardy: "Sorry sir. All naval vessels have now been designated smoke-free working environments."

Nelson: "In that case, break open the rum ration. Let us splice the mainbrace to steel the men before battle."

Hardy: "The rum ration has been abolished, Admiral. Its part of the Government's policy on binge drinking."

Nelson: "Good heavens, Hardy. I suppose we'd better get on with it ...full speed ahead."

Hardy: "I think you'll find that there's a 4 knot speed limit in this stretch of water."

Nelson: "Damn it man! We are on the eve of the greatest sea battle in history. We must advance with all dispatch. Report from the crow's nest please."

Hardy: "That won't be possible, sir."

Nelson: "What?"

Hardy: "Health and Safety have closed the crow's nest, sir. No harness; and they said that rope ladders don't meet regulations. They don't let anyone up there until proper scaffolding can be erected."

Nelson: "Then get me the ship's carpenter without delay."

Hardy: "He's busy knocking up a wheelchair access to the foredeck, Admiral."

Nelson: "Wheelchair access? I've never heard anything so absurd."

Hardy: "Health and safety again, sir. We have to provide a barrier-free environment for the differently abled."

Nelson: "Differently abled? I've only one arm and one eye and I refuse even to hear mention

of the word. I didn't rise to the rank of admiral by playing the disability card."

Hardy: "Actually, sir, you did. The Royal Navy is under represented in the areas of visual impairment and limb deficiency."

Nelson: "Whatever next? Give me full sail. The salt spray beckons."

Hardy: "A couple of problems there too, sir. Health and safety won't let the crew up the rigging without hard hats. And they don't want anyone breathing in too much salt - haven't you seen the adverts?"

Nelson: "I've never heard such infamy. Break out the cannon and tell the men to stand by to engage the enemy."

Hardy: "The men are a bit worried about shooting at anyone, Admiral."

Nelson: "What? This is mutiny!"

Hardy: "It's not that, sir. It's just that they're afraid of being charged with murder if they actually kill anyone. There's a couple of legal-aid lawyers on board, watching everyone like hawks."

Nelson: "Then how are we to sink the Frenchies and the Spanish?"

Hardy: "Actually, sir, we're not."

Nelson: "We're not?"

Hardy: "No, sir. The French and the Spanish are our European partners now. According to the Common Fisheries Policy, we shouldn't even be in this stretch of water. We could get hit with a claim for compensation."

Nelson: "But you must hate a Frenchman as you hate the devil."

Hardy: "I wouldn't let the ship's diversity co-ordinator hear you saying that sir. You'll be up on disciplinary report."

Nelson: "You must consider every man an enemy, who speaks ill of your King."

Hardy: "Not any more, sir. We must be inclusive in this multicultural age. Now put on your Kevlar vest; it's the rules. It could save your life"

Nelson: "Don't tell me - health and safety. Whatever happened to rum, sodomy and the lash?"

Hardy: "As I explained, sir, rum is off the menu! And there's a ban on corporal punishment."

Nelson: "What about sodomy?"

Hardy: "I believe that is now legal, sir."

Nelson: "In that case... kiss me, Hardy."