



Royal Military Police Association

Hull & East Riding Branch



Minutes of the Branch Meeting Held 6th October 2010

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

Apologies: Dave Emmerson (DE); Darren Howlett (DH); Bernard Anson (BA); Mike Walker (MW); 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 20.01 hrs. The Remembrance was observed by all members.
- 2.0 Members Present/Apologies Received as above. DE contacted PW to say that he couldn't attend as he was working. PW contacted PN and he was unable to attend. PH stated that DH sent apologies
- 3.0 Minutes Of The Last Meeting – SJ proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true and accurate record, this was seconded by BB, all members in favour.
- 4.0 Matters Arising –
 - 4.1 Eden Camp Report – This event was well attended by the Branch, who formed the majority of the 20 strong RMP contingent. We avoided the wet stuff and were treated to a glorious day of sunshine, if not a little blustery.

The attendance figures yet again were fantastic and I'm pleased to say that 97 standards were on parade from all over the country, including three RMPA standards from Hull & East Riding, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire. The Yorkshire Volunteers Band led the parade and a full service was conducted by Rev. Wright. An Act of Remembrance was conducted, remembering all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice from WW1 to the present day.

The salute was taken by General Sir Charles Huxtable KCB, CBE, DL.

All in all a fantastic day out that was well represented by all services, but specifically the RMPA and I highly recommend it to you all for next year.

RobH stated that both he and Sandra had thoroughly enjoyed the day.

- 4.2 Para 10 Report - Steve Johnson recently completed the Para 10 Endurance Run for charity, this is his review: (I arrived at the) *Infantry Training Centre Catt Erick, on arrival all bergans were weighed by members of the Parachute Regiment, anyone's pack found to be 'lacking' in weight was 'encouraged' to pick up a spare rock or two, anyone's pack that was found to be over the required weight was greeted with 'Good effort'. Around 2000 people both civilian and military arrived to take up the challenge. The run was hard, the hills steep and the water obstacles deep, as I passed others our Corps motto "Exemplo Ducemus" went threw my mind, but we did it, myself in 1 Hrs 58 Mins and my Matlot colleague (from the Prison Service) in 2 Hrs 15 Mins, yes I was 8 Mins over the required time for a trainee Para, but sill not bad for a 55 year old. This had been both a painful yet rewarding day, I had raised in excess of £875 and Matlot colleague a similar amount for a very worthy cause.*

- 5.0 Absent friends – Geoff Blakestone – As Members will be aware, Geoff passed away on the 21st September, his wife Emily passed away on the 25th September; a double funeral was held on Tuesday the 5th October which was well attended by Branch Members. The Branch Standard marched in front of the hearses and through a guard of honour formed by Branch Members. The family have asked that thanks be passed to all members that attended the funeral. Needless to say, Geoff and Emily will be sorely missed by all Members of the Branch and our hearts go out to their family and friends at this sad time.

Geoff & Emily have now been added to the new dearly departed section of the website.

- 6.0 Communications – The Branch had received the following communications:

- 6.1 The minutes of the recent CENCO meeting have been received from RHQ, notable points as follows:
- 6.1.1 Certificates of Merit: CENCO reported that 16 nominations had been made to the Awards Committee and that Mr. Peter Watson and Mr. David Mitchell had both been awarded a Certificate of Merit for Services to The Royal Military Police Association.
- 6.1.2 The RAFP Parade at NMA – CENCO reported that the Royal Air Force Police Parade will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum on the 9th March 2011, RMPA also parade as an act of solidarity and comradeship.
- 6.1.3 Field of Remembrance 2010 – CENCO reported that following the Field of Remembrance service, a meal will be served at the Union Jack Club at a cost of £9.00 per head. Members wishing to attend this function should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance.
- 6.1.4 Church Parade – Tower of London 2011 – CENCO reported that the parade will be on the 13 February 2011. Those wishing to attend should apply to London Branch as soon as possible. General Dannatt is taking the salute hence the even could become over-subscribed. London Branch will allocate tickets on a first come first served basis. Members wishing to attend this

function should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance. PW will be attending this event next year and will have room for 2 people.

- 6.1.5 Cenotaph Parade (LONDON) – CENCO Reported that RBL have allocated 100 tickets to the RMPA. Without a ticket you will not be able to parade. Those wishing to attend the London event should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance.
- 6.1.6 RMPA Reunion 2011 – CENCO reported that the venue for the 2011 RMPA Reunion is Belfast. The Dinner will be held in the City Hall where the Lord Mayor of Belfast will welcome diners with a Cocktail Party paid for by the city. The Church Parade and the AGM will be next door in the Jury's Inn. The Reunion Bar will also be in the Jury's Inn as there is no bar in the City Hall. Church Parade will be 11.00hrs on Sunday. The hotel has agreed to supply RMPA discount cards for drinks in the Hotel Bar. There will also be opportunities to visit the Falls Road and Shankhill on The Belfast Tour Bus which runs from outside the hotel. PW is considering attending this event. Branch Members wishing to attend this event should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance.
- 6.1.7 Freedom of Richmond – CENCO reported that 150 Pro Coy will be exercising the Freedom of Richmond on 04 Nov 10. RMPA are requested to provide a Guard of 40 and the National Standard. Branch Members wishing to attend this event should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance.
- 6.1.8 Juno Beach 1944 – CENCO reported that the RMP Sec was looking for anyone who landed on Juno Beach during June 1944. Arthur Cant's name and details have been forwarded to RHQ.
- 6.1.9 North American Reunion 2011 – CENCO reported that the North American Reunion 2011 was proposed as a cruise from Boston to Bermuda. Any member who wishes to express an interest in this trip should contact the Branch Secretary in the first instance.
- 6.2 The minutes on the recent RMPA Trustees meeting have been received from RHQ, notable points as follows:
 - 6.2.1 NMA - PM(A) has directed that RMP move toward making our memorial at Alrewas a centre for Remembrance throughout the Corps, both service and retired. He has directed all units to become involved with the June event. It was agreed that a marquee would be costed for as the chapel is too small to include the Regular Army members and that the Corps RSM should take the parade.
 - 6.2.2 The National Vice Chairman reported on RMPA efforts to recruit new members. He said that the use of the web may well be the most effective method of advertising and recruiting. The Chairman believed firmly that the RMPA required a web page.

- 6.3 An email was received from the Branch Secretary of the Birmingham (Midlands) Branch RMPA:

Hi,

Just to thank you and your members both personally and on behalf of our members who attended for the fantastic welcome and hospitality shown to us at your Dinner.

I think this event will be a popular occasion for us if we are invited in the future.

*Best regards
Bob Richards*

- 6.4 A letter was received from Mr. Jim Ramsey BEM of the Birmingham (Midlands) Branch RMPA thanking all Members of the Hull Branch for the wonderful hospitality shown to the five members of the Birmingham (Midlands) Branch at our recent Annual Dinner.
- 6.5 A letter was received from Mr. Barry Dougdale explaining that he was unable to attend our Annual Dinner. He also enclosed a cheque for the sum of £10.00 to be used towards the dinner. He passed on his regards to all members and asked that I tell 'young Emmerson' to behave himself and Joe Matthews that he'll try and get down soon to have that pint with him! PW sent a letter of thanks to Mr. Dougdale.
- 6.6 A letter was received from Birmingham (Midlands) Branch RMPA inviting our Branch Members to their Christmas Luncheon to be held at the Hagley Golf & Country Club on Saturday 11th December 2010, 12.30 hrs for 13.00 hrs. Tickets cost £21.00 per head and a choice of four course meals were available. Members wishing to attend this event should contact the Secretary in the first instance. Names have to be with Birmingham (Midlands) Branch by 19th November 2011.
- 6.7 An email was received from Charmaine at RHQ asking whether the Branch required a cross placing in the Field of Remembrance this year. PW requested that the Branch have the same cross as last year. Charmaine confirmed that the price for this cross would be £8.47. FH forwarded a cheque for this amount to RHQ.
- 7.0 CESA Report – DM reported that he had a meeting planned to discuss the formation and running of the cenotaph parade in Hull, with the Chief Constable and representatives of the Armed Forces. He is determined to raise the issue of 'dignitaries' waiting in the Royal Station Hotel, while the Veterans stand on parade, and like last year, get soaked through, although he isn't confident that any changes will be made!
- 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 Annual Dinner Report – FH gave a comprehensive break down on the financial affairs relating to the function, and concluded that this year's event had been financially viable. Including paying the deposit for next years event, we were only just slightly over the overall takings for the event. A full breakdown is available to any Member who wishes to view the report and they should contact the Treasurer to request a copy.

All in all the event was deemed to be a great success. An attendance figure of 68 Members and guests made this one of the most successful in recent memory. There was only one minor hitch, that being the lack of availability of the access code to the Marina Hotel car park, which caused a degree of embarrassment when guests were unable to get out of the car park. The bar staff, who were supposed to know the code, didn't have a clue, and in the end CH had to run across to the hotel to get the code. This complaint has already been passed to Peter Wright, the steward of the club by FH.

SJ wished it to be placed on record that he recognised the hard work that had been put in by the committee and others to make this event the success that it was, from the table decorations to the raffle. This was seconded by JM.

DM presented flowers for both Sandra Hare and Dee Groom, in thanks for their help with the raffle, these were graciously received by both RobH and PW.

- 9.2 Ladies Night – DM proposed that the next Ladies night will be held on **Thursday the 25th November 2010** this was seconded by PW, all in favour. It was agreed that we should investigate whether the Springhead Golf Club would be available as they had previously looked after us excellently and it was incredibly good value for money. RobH will investigate and report back at the next meeting.

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

(Post Meeting Note: RobH has been in touch with the Springhead Golf Club and confirmed that they have availability for **Thursday 25th November 2010** a hot and cold buffet will be provided and the cost will be £5.00 per head. The committee has decided that Branch Members will be able to attend for FREE, with only partners and additional guests having to pay the £5.00 ticket price. The above will be confirmed during the next meeting on the 3rd November.)

10.0 Any Other business

- 10.1 JM asked whether we could arrange a visit to Norton, the HQ of 252 Pro Coy RMP(V), where he and other members of the branch had served. He stated that it would be nice to meet up with other members of 252 who may now be involved with the RMPA. PW stated that he would get in contact with the secretary of the North East Branch RMPA or OC 252 Pro Coy RMP(V).
- 10.2 PW reported on an ongoing operation in Afghanistan. Operation Plunder was commenced about a month ago to try and prevent the smuggling of contraband by serving soldiers. When soldiers leave an operation theatre, they pack all items into a MFO box which is then sealed. This is then shipped back to the UK. RMP NCO's are now searching all boxes and removing contraband,

and arresting soldier that are smuggling more serious items such as drugs, munitions and weapons. A close friend of the branch SSGT Jon Wild of 252 Pro Coy RMP(V) is currently in charge of the search teams on the ground. A video of a recent news report can be viewed on the Video Section of our website. PW suggested that SSGT Wild could attend one of our branch meetings upon his return to give us a brief on Operation Plunder.

- 10.3 TJ asked whether wreaths had been order for Remembrance Sunday. He stated that 2 would be required, one for Hull and one for Beverley. DM stated that these would be order through CESA. PW stated that he would prepare Branch Wreath Cards for both the wreaths for the next meeting. These will be attached to the wreaths at the next meeting.
 - 10.4 DM reported that he is going on vacation and therefore would not be able to attend the next CESA meeting. He had asked TS to attend in his absence. TS will arrange the wreaths required in section 10.3.
 - 10.5 RobH stated that he did not intend to stand for re-election as Branch Chairman at the next AGM. He stated that he enjoyed his tenure as Chairman but now wanted to pass the baton on to someone else. He will remain an active member of the Branch in one capacity or other. PW stated that RobH had done a fantastic job as Chairman over the past two years and that he had the thanks of all the Branch Members. PW also stated that if any Branch Member wishes to be considered for election to any of the offices of the Branch they should make there wishes known to a member of the committee.
- 11.0 The time being 21.00hrs and there being no further business, the meeting was closed by RobH. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd November 2010 at 20.00hrs, at the Police Social Club, Inglemire Lane, Hull.

Agenda for October's Meeting

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- 2.0 Members Present / Apologies Received
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In Closing

In the style of the esteemed Mick Budding, I thought I might close this edition of the Branch Minutes in a slightly lighter note, ergo, I thought you might like to read the following information on our current treat levels:

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent terrorist threats and have raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies all but ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from

"Tiresome" to a "Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was during the Great Fire of 1666. The Scots raised their threat level from "P**** Off" to "Let's get the c*nts" They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line in the British army for the last 300 years. The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide".. The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability. It's not only the French who are on a heightened level of alert. Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout loudly and excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides." The Germans also increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbour" and "Lose".

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual, and the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels. The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy. And in the southern hemisphere...

New Zealand has also raised its security levels - from "baaa" to "BAAAA!". Due to continuing defence cutbacks (the airforce being a squadron of spotty teenagers flying paper aeroplanes and the navy some toy boats in the Prime Minister's bath), New Zealand only has one more level of escalation, which is "I hope Australia will come and rescue us". Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from "No worries" to "She'll be right, mate". Three more escalation levels remain: "Crikey!", "I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend" and "The barbie is cancelled". So far no situation has ever warranted use of the final escalation level.



The RMP contingent at Eden Camp.