



Royal Military Police Association

Hull & East Riding Branch



Minutes of the Branch Meeting Held 1st September 2010

- Members Present:** Bob Hare (RobH); Dave Mitchell (DM); Pete Watson (PW); Fred Hemmerman (FH); Steve Woods (SW); Geoff Blakeston (GB); Joe Matthews (JM); Peter Ovis (PO); Steve Johnson (SJ); Tony Steventon (TS); Mike Walker (MW); John Louis (JL); Frank Maunder (FM); Bob Boreland (BB); Andy Doyle (AD).
- Apologies:** Dave Emmerson (DE); Michael Sutton (MS); Keith Hill (KH); Trevor Goodfellow (TG); Darren Howlett (DH); Bernard Anson (BA); Craig Hemmerman (CH); Pat Howlett (PH).
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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 20.00hrs and a minutes silence was held. 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 due to a family holiday. SW reported that MS could not attend as his wife had taken ill. TS is tonight at 252 Pro Coy RMP. SJ reported that PH was still feeling very weak. TG, CH, BA apologies received from FH. New members present: Andy Doyle (AD): Andy served with RMP as a dog handler and is a member of the Army Dog Unit Northern Ireland Association, PW & TS met up with AD during last years RBL Cenotaph Parade on Whitehall. Returning members welcomed back are Frank Maunder (FM) and Bob Boreland (BB), welcome back guys.
- 3.0 Minutes Of The Last Meeting – DM proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting where a true and accurate record, this was seconded by SJ, all members in favour.
- 4.0 Matters Arising – No matters arising.
- 5.0 Absent friends – As detailed above.
- 6.0 Communications – The Branch had received the following communications:
 - 6.1 Letter form RHQ regarding Remembrance Weekend in London. As usual this starts on Thursday (11th November) with H.M. the Queen opening the Field of

Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. On Saturday 13th November the RMP/MPS and RMPA/MPSCA Service of Remembrance will be held at Westminster Abbey at 12.00 hrs. The Royal British Legion Cenotaph Parade will take place on Sunday the 14th November, all members to be on parade at Horse Guards at 09.45hrs. Any Branch Member wishing to attend this event should contact the Branch Secretary in the First instance. It is essential that Branch Members inform the Branch Secretary so that he can apply for you accreditations that are essential in order to get onto Horse Guards.

6.2 An email was received from RHQ regarding the forthcoming album being released by the Chelsea Pensioners, two of which are RMP Veterans, Tom Fox and Michael Allen. The CD is being released in order to raise funds to renovate the Royal Hospital accommodation which badly needs bringing into the 21st century. A film was shown to Branch Members of the Chelsea Pensioners on Sky News.

6.3 An email was received from Michael Budding as follows:

Hi Pete, and trust you are well.

I've just read the July Minutes, in which there was this comment:- " DM reported that due to the recent sad loss of Hazel".

You clunt!

***Is that all Hazel warranted after almost 20 years of serving H & ER RMPA?
What a plat.***

Perhaps a suggestion for a worthy obituary?

In 1990, the flotsam and jetsam of the old "New Guard" joined RMPA at Endike Lane: Messrs. Boreland, Budding Emmerson, Gribben, Hudson, Johnston, Ogilvie, Mitchell etc etc etc.

In addition to these miserable, diabolical, drunken, drop-outs, there came just a few superbly-energetic wives to compensate for these desperate derelicts - Hazel Mitchell being the most notable.

For almost 20 years, as most of the ex MP's actually worked harder in their efforts to dodge work and contributing time, than giving some (some of them actually opting for death as an acceptable solution to avoid putting in some effort) Hazel more than compensated for all these idle spare parts.

*Can anyone ever forget all the **huge** contribution that she personally made to every RMPA event, from the Ladies Nights to the annual Bun Fight, or the vast amounts of involvement, time, effort and money that she personally donated to make every event as successful as possible.*

Her personal and passionate involvement with every aspect of H & ER RMPA will be very sadly missed by all members, past and present, and the place that she occupied in everyone's heart - as the huge turnout at her Funeral demonstrated, means that she was loved and respected, and that H & ER RMPA will actually never be the same again.

*Rest in peace Hazel, you were indeed lovely, and we will never forget you.
xxxxxx*

Hello Zero, I say again, what a clunt"

Mike: Out.

PW explained that he had received this email whilst on his annual holiday and felt quite upset about it and was concerned that Mike's views with regard to the lack of obituary may be shared by DM and other members. PW also confirmed that in his time with RMPA there had only ever been one notice of a members death, that being of Mr. Peter Emmerson, this was inserted at the end of the Branch Minutes in order that all members were aware of Peter's passing due to the timing of his death, he was not aware of any obituaries for Associate Members. PW also confirmed that he had personally spoken to all members individually on two occasions with regard to Hazel's sad passing (although DM stated that TJ had not been informed this has now been confirmed as incorrect as TJ has now confirmed that PW did speak to him on two occasions prior to his trip to Oxford). PW made a personal statement apologising directly to DM for any hurt caused by not inserting an obituary. PW stated that as far as he was aware, his job as a secretary at the Branch meetings was to record verbatim all matters discussed unless specifically instructed to do so by the Chairman (for sympathetic reasons for example) and as there had been no other discussion regarding Hazel's sad passing, no further information had been entered. PW also confirmed that Hazel's passing would be included within the next Corps Journal notes for the Branch. Again, PW reiterated his apology to DM and RobH stated that a line had now been drawn under this matter.

- 6.4 An email was received from RHQ including a letter from Eden Camp giving details of the forthcoming All Services Remembrance Parade that will take place on Sunday 12th September at Eden Camp, Malton. Free entry is available to Veterans and their partners and the gates will open between 10.00am and 5.00pm. A parade will form up at 2.10pm to march to the memorial at 2.30pm. The parade will be led by the Yorkshire Volunteers Band followed by the Standards. Last year over 80 Standards were in attendance. As previously discussed in July's meeting, no further transport was now available. It is anticipated that around 10 Branch Members will attend this event. A report on the event would be made at the next Branch Meeting.

7.0 CESA Report – No meeting in August and therefore nothing to report.

8.0 Website – PW reported that a Video Section had been added to the website and now included 3 videos recorded by PW at the Festival of Remembrance last year, a section on Veterans Information and 7 short videos entitled "A Day In The Life of RMP in Afghanistan" that featured CPL Hansbury of 150 Pro Coy RMP in Sangin. These videos were played to the Branch Members.

9.0 Social Events-

- 9.1 Annual Dinner – Plans are now moving swiftly along. The committee met between meetings at DM's house to go over the event, PW thanked DM for providing a fantastic meal. PW confirmed that a two page 'Annual Dinner Information' sheet had been sent to Guests travelling from other branches, this was displayed to the Members. With numbers now standing at over 60, this year promises to be the best in recent memory. Thanks to everyone who had brought raffle prizes for the event to the meeting. If any member forgot to bring raffle prizes (PW!) then they can be dropped off at Bright Eyes Opticians. PW confirmed that table cloths for the tables for after the meal had been

sorted in red and blue. FH stated that had done a provisional table seating plan and asked PW to prepare a printed copy for the event. DM raised the issue as to whether miniature medals should be worn and it was agreed by members that this would be suitable.

10.0 Any Other business

- 10.1 DM has now despatched the **fiftieth** parcel to the RMP in Afghanistan. Well done Mitch! If anyone else wants to contribute, non-aerosol cosmetics and shaving gear are required such as small packs of wet wipes, roller ball deodorant, non-aerosol shaving cream etc should be placed into a shoe box and should weigh no more than 2Kg. DM is quite happy to despatch these for you, and he will accept them at his shop 'Bright Eyes'.
- 10.2 FH stated that the NVA are planning a pilgrimage to France in June next year and are inviting Branch Members who may wish to attend, it is estimated that the trip will cost around £300. Members interested should contact FH.
- 10.3 SJ stated that he is attempting the Para 10 mile run in aid of Help For Heroes on Sunday 12th September 2010 any Member wanting to join Steve in this torture, sorry I meant enjoyment (!) please contact either the secretary or SJ personally, everyone else, please sponsor Steve. Despite repeated attempts by SJ to convince PW to undertake this punishment, sorry charitable event, PW confirmed that he had already confirmed that he was attending Eden Camp on that day (PW: "Thank God!"). Seriously though, this is an incredible feat of endurance, specifically designed to test out would be Parachute Regiment soldiers and to weed out those less fit. I don't think SJ will mind me saying, but at 55, this event becomes a real endurance race. Please give generously to help SJ achieve his target. Cheques made payable to "Help for Heroes" can be sent directly to SJ.

- 11.0 The time being 20.25hrs and there being no further business, the meeting was closed by RobH. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th October 2010 at 20.00hrs, 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
 - 4.1 Report of Eden Camp Visit
 - 4.2 Report of Para's 10 Race by SJ
- 5.0 Absent Friends
- 6.0 Communications
- 7.0 CESA Report
- 8.0 Website
- 9.0 Social Events
 - 9.1 Annual Dinner Report
 - 9.2 Ladies Night
- 10.0 Any Other Business