The Magazine of the Royal Air Force Police Association

75th Anniversary of The Battle of Britain

January 2016

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Remembrance Day - White Berets go Global!


John Armfield, Armistice Ceremony, Verfeil sur Seye, France.

Neil Rusling at the Botha Boys Parade in Cape Town

Steve Lamacraft as part of the Guard of Honour at the Gibraltar Armistice Parade. The inspecting officer is the young lady who is the Deputy Mayor.

John Reid, Armistice Ceremony, St. Front la Riviere, France, with the Mayor.

Submitted by: Neil Rusling
## who's who in the RAF Police Association - 2016

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letters to the editor

MB Visit to Cosford
The Midlands Branch recently visited the Cosford Museum where the group enjoyed a guided tour and the opportunity to see close hand the restoration work on a Wellington bomber.
The day was organised by Midlands RAFPA member Bryant Rudolph who volunteers at the museum as a guide.
Those present were John Brookes, Trevor Marklew, Peter Cooke, Brian Lawrence, Alec Glover, Bryant Rudolph.
Submitted by: Jo Culley

Taff Jones writes that at the 'Wings over Carew' weekend (August 8/9th), Cpl Dai Laffin in company with Taff Evans (back) and Ken Humphries attended a memorial service at RAF Carew, which was a Flying Station during WW1 and WW2. On August 12th we were at RAF Dale (next station west to this is Washington DC).

Thanks for this Taff, it’s always nice to receive news from Wales. Ed.

Brassards...
Peter Bacon is not convinced about the photographs submitted by Peter Clark, indicating that photographic evidence is easily manipulated! But he does stipulate that on 'pass out' in 1955 the brassard was worn on the right arm, it changed to the left arm in 1956. As an additional piece of information, he started his tour of Monchengladbach just as Cpl Myson, (tallest RAF policeman) was ending his tour.
The Autumn issue of the Provost Parade (1958) carries a fairly comprehensive report.

Acknowledgments...
The Editor sincerely thanks All contributors for their photographic and article inputs, especially Mike Lester, John Walton, Brian Burgess, John Curtis, Neil Rusling. Again many thanks and please keep those contributions coming in.
Still there, after God knows how many years is , the ‘Main Guardroom’ at No 1 ACC over the road from RAF Wattisham. Room for 1 Snowdrop and 1 fire piquet!! Visited a mate who lives near Wattisham and I found the site still in use by a couple of civvy firms. Concrete bases where the radar was sited. Thought it might interest any ex Wattisham peeps. Smallest ever RAFP control point?

Remember it well BB also the time we decamped to St Ives just after all the trouble in SA (1972/3?) when the Asians were ejected we arrived down there and started erecting the tents etc for our annual deployment. Visiting the local that night everybody was talking about the troubles when one of our clever wits commented that that's what all the tents were for to house the Asians coming from SA. I thought there was going to be a riot!

Can't actually recall but there again when I was there I remember our, FS Geoff Brewer, calling us in to tell us this TS that a "special cargo" was in one of the hangars and how we had to keep it very very secret! Of course as soon as I got home my wife asked me about the American U2 in the hanger!! I spent more time on Wattisham rather than on 1ACC as the unit was always short. Great posting though, done my CI course from there and went straight to Northern Ireland! Having read about your housing I must have been lucky as I was in MQ's, but there again I did have 5 kids and was a sub cpl so started off 4 pts per year served.

An old friend of mine, Butch Fergusson, with his wife Margaret, was there sometime in the late 60’s or early 70’s. I’ve been unable to find any trace of him since then!

I think West Drayton had the smallest RAFP Control Point. A chair beside a small wooden wall. They called it the "Link Post". It was literally the link door between the RAF building, and LATCC, the London Air Traffic Control Centre, where the RAF had a section. But we won't talk about that!

Submitted by: Brian Burgess, Gus McGowan and Frank Todd
On 21st September, **Deryk Stronach** represented the St. Michael’s Branch & Association at an act of remembrance held at the Singapore Memorial in commemoration of our comrades who perished in the 1946 air crash in Malaya. A selection of photographs of the event has been sent to the webmaster for the Association website.

Submitted by: **Neil Rusling**

On Sunday 20th September many towns across the country celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. 22 members of the East Midlands Branch met up at the White Hart Hotel Lincoln for lunch prior to attending the Commemoration and Thanksgiving service in the impressive Lincoln Cathedral. After the service a large crowd gathering around the entrance to this magnificent place of worship, to witness the parade. Barrie Clarke carried the East Midlands Branch Standard, George Lee carried the RAFA Standard and six members of the Branch, together with six other veterans, marched at the front of the parade to much applause from the crowd. We veterans were honoured by coming to the halt; turning into line and have the entire parade marched past with an ‘Eyes left’ as we stood smartly to attention.

**Bill Bennett, Phil Fitchett, David Marr, Mick Hall, John Curtis, Bernard Lamb.**

Submitted by: **John Curtis**

**Alan Rusling Memorial Award 2015**

I am pleased to announce on behalf of the Adjudicators that in recognition of his outstanding contribution, over a period of 20 years, to both RAFPA and the wider RAFPF Family the recipient of the Alan Rusling Memorial Award for 2015 is Steve Cattell. The full adjudication can be viewed at: [http://st-mike.com/](http://st-mike.com/)

**Neil Rusling**, Secretary, St. Michael’s Branch (Designate)
Shoreham Air Show August 2015

On Saturday 22nd August, the South Downs Branch manned their display stand at the Shoreham Air Show. The weather was perfect for the occasion – very hot and sunny – and many thousands of people had arrived from the opening time of 8.30am. Much interest was shown in the RAFPA, with several former RAF Police stopping to talk to the Branch members there, namely, Ted Hellewell, Archie Heath, Dave Hilton, Jim Spiers and John Packham. Very unfortunately, at 1.26pm precisely, disaster struck, when a Hawker Hunter jet, whilst doing a manoeuvre over the airfield, failed to come out of a dive and crashed onto the A27 dual carriageway near the airfield, killing 11 people, with many injured – including the pilot.

So, obviously, the event was cancelled there and then. Understandably, those thousands of spectators that were there were not allowed to leave for some 6 plus hours, until the highways and emergency exits over farm tracts had been opened up.

The Branch send their heartfelt commiserations to all those involved in this tragic event.

Submitted by: Ted Hellewell

More Brassards!

September 2015 issue, Brassards Right or Left?

I show a photograph of brassard on the left arm, taken outside the Guardroom on Christmas Island and another photo taken on security duty at the AWRE compound where the Hydrogen bomb was assembled, slightly more relaxed dress code - no brassard.

I was at Northolt with ‘Nobby’ Clark, the Flt Sgt was Lascelles and his 2i/c was Sgt Bob Armstrong. One or two other names I can remember Ray Morris, Roy Keeble, David Goulthorpe, Don Holman and Eric Pargeter. Hopewell these names will jog Nobby’s grey cells. I would be delighted to hear from any old colleagues.

Submitted by: Peter Carpenter

The Editor would like to take this opportunity to wish all members, their wives, family and friends a very Happy New Year for 2016!
The RAF Police Association AGM 2016

The AGM will be hosted by the HD & IOW Branch and will take place over the weekend of 29th April - 1st May 2016 at the Royal Maritime Club, Queens Street, Portsmouth.

Tel: 023 9282 4231 or email info@royalmaritimeclub.co.uk

How to Book: Ideally phone Monday-Friday between 0900 – 1700hrs. Inform the receptionist you are a member of the RAFP Association and have details of your method of payment, credit card, VISA, etc.. A 10% deposit is required at time of booking. Balance is required on arrival at booking in. Incidental incurred during the week-end to be paid on departure.

Your choice of menu for the Gala Dinner to be given to Reception when making your reservation.

Arrival Times: 14.00 hrs onwards. If you arrive earlier, the staff will take your luggage and keep safe until you officially book in. There is limited car parking available at the Maritime Club, but directly opposite at approximately 100 yards, there is a secure car park, which is currently £5 for 24 hrs. (Reception will explain the procedure) Council on street parking scratch cards are available from reception currently £2.50 for 24 hrs.

AGM cost for the 2 night weekend will be £141.00pp to include Friday Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, if you would like to have a Superior bedroom that would be £10.00 per room, per night based on a double bedroom.

Saturday Gala Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Plus Historic Dockyard Ticket.

Additional nights before and after the AGM will be £42.00pp to include DBB.

Gala Dinner, Bed and Breakfast only will be £70.50pp.

Gala Dinner only will be £29.50pp.

If you wish to attend the AGM only please advise Mitch O'Neill by 2nd April, 2016.

Friday Programme:

14.00 hrs onwards - Arriving and booking in.
At leisure to explore 'Pompey', make full use of your entry ticket to the Historic Dockyard, valid for a year. First chance to go shopping in Gunwharf Quay or mix and chat with colleagues and friends.

16.00 hrs Executive Council Committee Meeting.

18.00 - 20.45 hrs - (you can eat anytime within this time frame) Horatio's Restaurant - Chef’s Carvery table d’hote, 3 courses and coffee.

21.00 hrs onwards - After dinner enjoy the privacy of the Victory Bar with it’s reasonable prices and 10% discount on drinks.

Saturday Programme:

07.30 - 10.00 hrs. Horatio’s Restaurant, Full English Buffet Breakfast.
09.00 - 1500 hrs at leisure to explore 'Pompey', make full use of your entry ticket to the Historic Dockyard, valid for a year. Or maybe a chance to go shopping in Gunwharf Quay and 'sight see' from the Spinnaker Tower.

14.00 - 17.30 hrs AGM
18.30 - 19.00 hrs Gala Dinner
21.15 - 22.15 hrs ‘Mista Messy’ Music in a unique style
AGM Gala Dinner Menu

Entree: Prawn Salad or Crofters soup with Gammon Stock & Vegetables.

Main Course: Fillet of Salmon baked in Puff Pastry, served with a Dill & White Wine Sauce or Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, served with a rich Red Wine Gravy

Vegetarian alternatives are available.

Traditional roast potatoes and minted new potatoes with a selection of fresh vegetables.

Desserts: Chocolate fudge cake with cream or ice cream or Lemon Meringue Pie.

Dessert course is followed by coffee or tea with chocolate mints.

If you are considering flying to the venue, the nearest airfield is Eastleigh (Southampton). From there you can travel by rail, your destination is Portsmouth Harbour Station. The Royal Maritime is approximately 5 minutes walk from the station. Anyone considering travelling by rail from any point in the UK, your terminus is Portsmouth Harbour Station. Using automobile transportation, from the North, your own favoured route to South London and pick up the A3(M), sign posted Portsmouth, from the East and West, the same advice, follow your selected roads to pick up the M27, from the West turn right onto the M275 from the East turn left onto the M275. If you have a satnav plot in PO1 3HS. If not follow Portsmouth Historic Dockyard signs.

Visit to DSPG Southwick Park

A visit has been arranged to DSPG for all RAFPA members and guests on the morning of Sunday 1 May 2016 to complete a memorable AGM. The provisional programme will include a Service in the School Chapel with Standards Paraded and blessed. Visits to the RAFFP museum and the D-Day Command Room (used by Eisenhower and Staff during the landings). Then lunch will be available, hopefully preceded by drinks.

This programme is in the very early stages of planning at this time and could change, if there is anything else a member would like included in the programme please let me know at the earliest. This visit will be open to all members and their guests and not limited to AGM attendees but if the numbers become critical the date interest is registered will become the deciding factor.

Closing date for registration is: 28 February 2016

Everyone interested in attending this visit should contact me to register their interest stating how many will be in their party*, preferably by e-mail, but phone is acceptable for those not on line.

Once the programme is finalised I will contact all who have registered an interest with the full details.

Roy Laver - National Chairman - royatrafpa@btinternet.com or 01895 622382

*Please mention any Standard be to be paraded.
# AGENDA 2016

Agenda for the AGM of the RAFPA at:
The Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth at 1400 on 30th April 2016.

1. Welcome and introduction, and remembrance of those Members passing away since the last AGM. (RAFPA Chairman, Royston Laver.)

2. Apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of 2015 AGM. (Portsmouth 11 April 2015.)


5. Chairman’s Report (Roy Laver)

6. Treasurers report. (Mike Thornton)


8. Election of Officers.

9. Election of Trustees (3 posts vacant).

10. Election of Auditors.

11. Proposal 1 (Roy Laver)

12. Proposal 2 (Mitch O’Neill)

13. Proposal 3 (John Walton)

14. Proposal 4 (Roy Laver)

15. Proposal 5 (Roy Laver)

16. Proposal 6 (Ken Turner)

17. Proposal 7 (Brian Sutton)

18. Proposal 8 (Brian Flinn)

19. Proposal 9 (Neil Rusling)

20. Proposal 10 (John Armfield)

21. Proposal 11 (John Armfield)

22. Proposal 12 (Paddy Cowap)

23. Proposal 13 (Paddy Cowap)

24. Proposal 14 (Brian Flinn)

25. Proposal 15 (Paddy Cowap)

26. Proposal 16 (Paddy Cowap)

27. Proposal 17 (Paddy Cowap)

28. Proposal 18 (Paddy Cowap)

29. Proposal 19 (Brian Whitaker)

30. Proposal 20 (Steve Cattell)

31. Proposal 21 (Ken Turner)

32. Date and location of 2017 AGM

33. Meeting closed.

Please refer to the enclosed forms for complete explanations.
Today I have received a request from our National Secretary to be relieved of his duties as soon as possible. The stress that each of the National officers are experiencing due to the actions of a few disaffected members is causing problems and in Alan's case is starting to affect his health. I have agreed with Alan that he will complete the preparations for the AGM then he will resign with effect from 0001 hrs 14 December.

The duties of the Secretary will now be divided with all communications except those regarding the AGM will come to me. All communications regarding the AGM, including voting forms, will go to Bill Veazey who has agreed to be co-opted by the National Executive officers to carry out this role. Bill will fulfil this part of the Secretary's role through to, and including, at the AGM but is not standing for election to that position.

The loss of Alan Weeks' services will have a really serious effect on the running of the Association. I am already busy enough which will mean that some things e.g. replies to letters, may take longer to achieve. it may sound selfish on my part but I do not intend to put in any more time at this task than I am already doing. Last Friday I watched one of my Grandchildren in a nativity play - it brought home just where my priorities should be and that is where they are going.

I am sure that all reasonable members will join me in wishing Alan Weeks well and giving a sincere thank you for his services.

Roy Laver - National Chairman - Royal Air Force Police Association

Hants - Dorset & IOW Branch Xmas Lunch - December 15, 2015

On a dank, wet and cheerless day, the Service Police School at Southwick were hosts to H & D Branch for their annual Christmas lunch. The Station Commandant, Wg Cdr Bland and RSM WO1 Si Talbot were the special invited guests along with several RAFP and RMP SNCO’s. Entry onto the camp was seamless and spaces reserved right outside the Sergeants Mess, a great start to the afternoon. Ashley Finch, Chef and Chrissie Emerson, Mess Manager made sure the meal was cooked, served and perfectly presented, all under the watchful eye of Flt Sgt Paul Symons, who was the main organiser of the event. The raffle went well (£93) with several prizes available thanks to the generosity of the Branch members. Several permanent staff of all ranks carried out their waiter duties with a smile and an odd comment! My thanks and best wishes to everybody for making it a most enjoyable afternoon.

Ed.
The weather on Remembrance Sunday in Central London was dull, mild, but fortunately dry for the Association's 13th attendance at the Cenotaph Parade. Our contingent consisted of some 55 members, plus 3 serving RAF Police Warrant Officers. The meeter and greeter and caller of the roll, was a smiling Brian Davies.

As ever, we were jointly led by former Provost Marshal and Association Vice President, retired Group Captain Ted Scaplehorn OBE and Association Chairman Mr Roy Laver OBE. They were "escorted" as usual by retired Group Captains John Rose OBE and David Stanley.

Once again, our still young (ish) regular photographers Bobbi and Maggie were busy recording the images that appeared before them!!

Our regular Right Marker, BBB (Big Brian Burgess), was back in his usual position on the opposite end of the front row to George (Badger) Brookes, our Left Marker and TV target. This year we left Horse Guards Parade in reverse order, turning left onto Whitehall and halting (it seemed), not far from Trafalgar Square! We about turned, closed up (ie shuffled) and ended up back not far from the entrance to Horse Guards!

Our wreath carriers were Anton (Taffy) Von Wingstedt with the Provost Marshal and serving RAF Police wreath. Carrying the Association wreath was Gary Hinchiffe.

By kind permission of the Provost Marshal (Group Captain Kevin Bailey), Warrant Officer Graeme Spark MBE pushed Beryl Coton in her wheelchair. Stew McArdle was once again pushed (in his wheelchair), by Mick Griffin. Warrant Officers Stew Coppard and Dale Woolman-Lane MBE, both in full great coat order with swords, assisted the Association Parade Marshal Bill Veazey MBE.

On completion of the march past Bill related to us the comments about us made by the new Garrison Sergeant Major. "You were very good" ie our drill!! (praise indeed).

At 12.45 (a bit later than usual), the National Anthem was played in the presence of HRH Prince William, who had taken the salute. We were then "dismissed" by Bill and we joined our relatives and friends in the Silver Cross for a drink and some excellent finger buffet (some 120 very noisy, hungry and thirsty bodies!!!)

The Provost Marshal did not join us this year, as he attended the parade in Edinburgh with his wife, who is the Secretary of the Scotland, Northern Ireland Branch of the Association.

Archie Heath and Tony Harbour (South Downs Branch), were marching as usual with the Blind Veterans UK (formerly St Dunstans).

On Thursday at the Garden of Remembrance, outside Westminster Abbey, Bill Veazey attended, having organised a corner "forever RAF Police". Bill has worked over several years to have the RAF Police (and its Association) independently recognised and this year he was successful.

We thank Bill on behalf of all RAF Police, both living and dead.

Overall impressions will vary according to personal perceptions at the time. Not only did the Garrison Sergeant Major say we were "good", Prince William made a complimentary comment to the President of the RBL. As we marched past the rear of the Cabinet/Foreign Offices, there was a figure tapping on the metal barrier to the tune of the band, Mr Jeremy Corbyn, who was there for at least the period that we passed by. So all in all another great occasion for the RAF Police Association.

Submitted by: John Walton
Side one of the Cenotaph, London, poignant.

Side two of the Cenotaph, London, moving.

Horse Guards waiting for the National Anthem.

Parade leaving Horse Guards.

Stu McArdle and Beryl Coton leading in wheelchairs.

Parade nearly over, looking forward to a pie and a pint!
In August 1953 I returned from a posting to Germany to RAF Northwood in Middlesex, then the Headquarters of Coastal Command in addition this was also the Headquarters of Eastlant. The Eastern Atlantic section of NATO forces. It thus housed officers of other countries defence forces. As police NCO’s we became quite blaise about the Air Vice Marshal and many other senior officers driving in and out the gate.

Shortly after my arrival a major exercise was mounted out in the Atlantic and, since in a wartime situation Coastal Command came under the control of the Royal Navy, an Admiral moved in with his staff. Also the Command Operations Room became much more active with many reservists called back to provide the additional staff required. Our job was to provide security for the Operations Centre so we too received several police reservists and police NCO’s on temporary duty from other stations. At this time national service was very much in existence whereby all males at age 18, or 21 for students and apprentices, were required to serve for 2 years in the defence force plus, for the next 3 years, to attend for 2 weeks full time service. Females were exempt this compulsory military service.

I was somewhat stunned when every evening the Admiral came into the operations centre to as he put it "Check the plot". His approach was heralded by a Royal Marine bugler who opened the external door and blasted a long note on this musical instrument. The Marine then held the door open for his boss before running on to open the next door for another blast on his bugle. I was somewhat amazed at the appearance of the Admiral, he not only wore what I would call mess dress, the ensemble was covered by a flowing boat cloak, navy blue on the outside but lined with scarlet satin, quite a garment. What is mess dress called in the navy where messes are for the ratings and ward rooms for the officers?

Anyway the exercise ended after a couple of weeks with victory for the good guys, when someone realized we had a reservist still incarcerated at West Drayton in a RAF Police Unit known as the D Unit. D for detention of all malefactors from London based units of the RAF. West Drayton was in reality a USAF base, however, for some complex legal reason all USAF bases in the U.K. had to have an RAF presence, hence the D Unit.

This particular wrongdoer had been recalled for his final period of 2 weeks training however for the past 2 sessions he had declined to remove his beard or don uniform as he had realized it was wrong to kill anyone. His speciality was that of plotter, not exactly a front line warrior position and his 2 weeks training invariably became a 6 month sentence in the Military Corrective Centre at Colchester.

Submitted by: David Jones

Final Part Next Issue
Pamela Gabell and Brian Flinn, Wiltshire Branch, selling RBL Trowbridge Branch poppies at Tesco’s.
Submitted by: Brian Flinn

The recently unveiled Australian War Memorial in Canberra, a magnificent memorial dedicated to six explosives detection dogs.
Submitted by: John Walton
NB: Fuller story in May 2016 Issue.

Charity Zip Wire event at Blind Veterans UK
Below are 2 photographs from the recent Charity Zip Wire event at Blind Veterans UK on Saturday 3rd October 2015.
For information, 8one4 made the tee shirts that Simon Vince and I are wearing, the RAF Ensign is mine and the picture is of me, Tony Harbour, Dave Kempson and Simon Vince.
A lot of money was raised over the whole weekend and the South Downs Branch managed to raise a large amount. BVUK have told us that so far the weekend raised £9800, of which a good part of that was raised by RAFPA Members, ably assisted by the Royal Marines who were in charge of the Zip Slide and all matters safety related. The group photograph is the party from the RAFPA South Downs Branch and apart from those mentioned above, included Mark Wynn-Peddar and family, and Dave’s wife Jacqui.
Submitted by: Mark Wilson
RAF Pol QPB!

At the end of the detachment we were again called into the Sqn Ldr’s office where he congratulated us on helping out and fully integrating into the Sqn, becoming honorary members of the ‘Flying Camel Sqn’. He then promised that his post detachment report would paint a glowing picture of our professional and efficient work whilst at RAAF Woomera. Although he did say that to keep everyone happy he would of course state that we had been on guard the whole time and the crew bus and painting details would be omitted. True to his word, after returning to Seletar, a few weeks later I was summoned into the OC’s office to be congratulated on keeping up the honour and good name of the RAJP by my conscious guard work whilst at RAAF Woomera. Well it seemed a shame to really let on what we did, but I did get an annotation at last, RAF Pol Qualified Paint Brush.

See article in The Griff September 2015 for part 1

Final part

Barnault Co. Londonderry

In 1967/68 I was an A/Cpl RAF Police (Stn) at Ballykelly in N. Ireland where we all had to take our turn at providing security around a communications mast situated on very high ground a few miles from the station at a place called BARNault. We were armed with a .38 Smith and Wesson revolver loaded with six rounds and carried a further six rounds in a pouch attached to our belts. Barnault was bleak and totally deserted apart from a lonely farm house. The only sign of life was when the farmer’s wife would come out to peg her washing on the clothes line. Occasionally she would give you a friendly wave. Everywhere was so quiet it was probably the nearest you could get to being at one with nature and appreciate the rugged beauty of the tranquil landscape. It was also an ideal opportunity to reflect on your past and ponder about your hopes for the future. During my many meanderings I often used to wonder ‘I have here 12 rounds of ammo, what happens if I am attacked by 13 of them?’ After much thought and careful consideration I concluded the only thing I could do, would be to say, ‘Come on, chaps, would you all mind bunching up together in the middle to give me some kind of fighting chance?’ Fortunately that situation never arose.

Submitted by: Jim Finn

Commission For One Member

Congratulations to Michael Soulsby (Mick) a member of the North East Branch who has recently received a commission into the RAF Volunteer Reserve Training Branch. Mick joined the Royal Air Force in June 1985 and served at various stations throughout the UK and at Bruggen in Germany, completing his service at RAF Scampton in 1992. On his demob he joined Northumbria Police and is still a serving officer. He is currently a Sergeant with The Roads Policing Unit and holds the position of Senior Crash Investigator. Mick keeps in regular contact with the RAF Police stationed at RAF Boulmer, with regards to road safety and also has a close liaison on matters of mutual interests.

Mick has been a active member of the Air Training Corps at their squadron based at Wideopen, Newcastle upon Tyne. The squadron (No.861) was recently voted the best in the Durham/Northumberland Wing. It was selected to represent the region in 2014 and again in 2015 for the Sir Alan Lees Trophy Competition. No. 861s Squadron is proudly placed in the top 6% in the Air Training Corps in the UK.

Submitted by: Rowley Coultas
Have You any Prohibited Items?

The Gunner went on the coach to the airfield with the other passengers and I kept the python. With Charlie driving the L/Rover we set off to the VC10 dispersal. I was carrying the green PVC bag which I held out at arm’s length up near the windscreen. It weighed about 8 to 10 lbs. I swear that Charlie ran over every dip, bump and manhole cover that he could find along the route. He was laughing like a maniac while I tried to remain upright without jolting the bag so as to avoid awakening the python.

When we arrived at the VC10 there was the usual stairs, one set at the front near the cockpit and one at the main access door towards the tail end. Between these two sets of steps stood that evening’s Air Movements Officer who happened to be a female Flt Lt complete with her red brassard (AMO). The auxiliary power unit (APU the small jet engine below the tail) was running noisily when I approached her. I told her about the python and my wanting to board the aircraft to talk to the Captain. She said, “I can’t hear you” so I shouted, “I’ve got a python in this bag and I need to….” I stopped speaking because I saw that I was now talking to thin air. She had just run away, around the rear steps and passing underneath the aircraft she went out of my sight. By now Charlie was of course crying with laughter.

As the plane was now rapidly loading with our 50 passengers I went up the front steps and turned left towards the cockpit. I noticed that the Captain sat in his seat which was about a foot below where I was standing. He had his headphones on and was talking to the tower while the co-pilot who was not in his seat, was standing in front of me. I told him I had a python in the green PVC bag and as he backed away from me he bent down and frantically attracted the Captain’s attention by tapping him on the shoulder. The co-pilot was still facing me and he stared fixatedly at the green bag.

The Captain turned round and I started to tell him the python story and the passenger who wanted to take it to UK. He told me to stand back a bit with the green bag while I was talking to him and he said, “I have got 17 stretcher cases on board, any minute now the C-in-C of Far East Command and his family is due to board this plane, I need a python like a b*****y hole in the head; get it off”. So I did.

I put the bag in the Landrover with Charlie reluctantly keeping the python company. I then went back up the main steps to find the Regiment Gunner to pass on the message from the pilot. As I got off the plane I saw the Station Commander escorting the C-in-C FEC, an Air Chief Marshal to the front steps of the VC10 and the VIP embarked.

As the aircraft taxied away the Air Movements Officer, who had miraculously re-appeared was now with the Station Commander and was obviously telling him about the python because she was pointing at the RAF Police Land Rover.

Submitted by: Brian Whitaker

Part 3 next issue
Always & Forever

August - November 2015

Mr. John Watkins - NWB
Mr. Brian Hurt - SWAB
Mr. Alan Taylor - SWAB
Mr. Don Davis - SDB
Mr. Clarence Lavis - No Branch
Mr. Paul Ramsey - WILTS

Mr. Alfred Walkley - WILTS
Mr. Kenneth Turner - WILTS
Mr. Alexander Beange - EMB
Mr. James Cox - LHC
Mr. Albert Moore - LHC
Mr. Christopher Beech - MID

Paddy Smyth would like to report the ‘passing’ of his beloved wife, Jean nee Monger, a Corporal WRAF Policewoman he met in 1954. Paddy would like to hear from anybody who knows him or who knew Jean. Tel. No. 01472 291279

Welcome to New members
Aug - Nov 2015

Serving Members:

Connor Nixon
Sarah Leech
Alexandra Bell
Amy Woodford
Antony Longley
Paul Vawe
Paul Kaminski

Vicky Bloor
Rachel Cozens
James Trott
Chris Hamilton
Eloise Messam
Matthew Evans
Daniel Vincent

Barnaby Robinson
Kelly Fields
Louise Henley
James Horlock
Kinzie Pitman
Richard Maxwell - Whale

Annual Members:

WILTS
Mr. Nigel Cridland - Cardiff

SWAB
Mr. Colin McKenzie - Exeter

WANG
Mr. David Bradley - Northants

MAB
Mr. Barry Astbury - Stoke

No Branch
Mr. David Griffiths - Carmarthen

NWB
Mr. Mark Dobson

Membership at 30th November - 1420
Graduation Parade - DSPG - Southwick Park

On Friday 30th October 2015, 27 students of Netheravon Flight graduated before many members of their families and friends. After assembling in the Memorial Chapel, they were greeted by Commandant Bland who welcomed them all and also played tribute to the training staff for all their excellent work. He then introduced the Reviewing Officer, Gp Capt K.Bailey, Provost Marshal (RAF), who gave a short talk, which was followed by prayers conducted by the Chaplain. Everyone then congregated outside for the parade, where the Provost Marshal presented the students with their Warrant Cards and Course Awards. Cpl Bell received the RAFPA General Police Duties Trophy and later, in the Goodwood Rooms, the RAFPA National Chairman, Roy Laver, presented her with the RAFPA engraved pewter photo-frame as her personal prize. Cpl Bell is being posted to RAF Benson.

Submitted by: Gill Hellewell

I was honoured to receive the RAFPA trophy today for best GPD. Kind Regards,
Alex. Cpl A Bell

Larry, Curly and Moe!
Some brief moments in the history of the RAF Police

In late 1943 an RAFP unit was established to support the British North African Air Force. Roundabout this time the number of RAFP districts within the UK were reduced to 8 from 13. Coincidentally the RAFP School was moved from Uxbridge to Weeton (near Blackpool). In 1944 the RAFP were tasked with producing new RAF Identity Cards with corresponding records. Also in this year the RAFP take over from MAPGDS and it is renamed as the RAF Police Dog Training School. The first intake of trainee dog handlers arrive at Woodfold in March. Cpl King forms the RAFP Dance Orchestra at RAFP H.Q.

more letters to the editor

Not sure if you received a rush of replies but this is my account...

In February 1955 I was in Pool Flight (ex-FEAF) at Netheravon, employed in the Guardroom waiting my new posting. Derek Myson did a night shift with me there. He had graduated from the new 15 week Provost Course at the time. For some reason they did a week in Pool Flight. Everything in the article about his height etc is true. On enlistment he had two ration books, hence the extra rations. He related that whilst at Bridgenorth he was invited to join the England Tall Men’s Club, meeting in Wolverhampton, the Hon President being the diminutive Arthur Askey! It received a lot of publicity. Derek stated that at first he had a chair at the end of his bed to support his feet. His special bed was made from two of the old black folding beds used then. The end was cut off and a quarter of another bed welded on, having six legs. The mattress was six feet long so he was issued an old style three foot biscuit mattress to complement the bed length. He also had extra blankets. On the night shift there was a soldier from a local tank unit in Close Arrest. When wakening him in the morning he remarked on my height of 6’ 3” as he stood about 5’ 6”. I smiled at the thought of him seeing Derek standing in the Guardroom wearing his SD cap and a picture at seven foot tall! I saw Derek the morning he was posted to 4PD at Duxford. He said, with a smile, that his bed was already on the road to Duxford. In 1960, I was at RAF Upwood. There was a missile site on the old wartime airfield at RAF Warboys, which was administered by Upwood. Derek was the Sgt i/c RAF Police there. On meeting he related he was now married but was leaving the service as he wished to pursue a career in farming. Never heard of him since.

Submitted by: W. Walker (aka John)

Battle of Britain Anniversary

75 years since the ‘Hardest Day’ of the Battle of Britain. The ‘Hardest Day’ recalls when, on 18 August 1940, Biggin Hill in Bromley came under attack from the Luftwaffe, and post-war studies have shown this was the hardest-fought day in the history of the air war over Britain. The Battle of Britain was waged over the skies of southern England as Germany attempted to assert its dominance.

Ed.
Subscriptions 2016

Members Renewal £12.50

New Members Joining 2016
1st January to 30th June
Joining fee £8.50
Subscription £12.50

1st July to 31st December
Joining fee £8.50
Subscription £6.50

Serving Members Scheme
Membership for entire service - FREE (Does not include Provost Parade, The Griff or Members Directory).

NOTE: Joint membership may apply to eligible spouses of existing members and to those joining as Serving Members.
One normal joining fee plus £1.00

STOP PRESS

Subscriptions: Treasurer, Mike Thornton, wishes to remind all members that subscriptions were due on the 1st January 2016. Please ensure your payments are made promptly and the correct information is with the Banks if paying by direct debit, etc.. Thank you in advance.

Any item from RAFPA Sales will be actioned by: Tony Lake on Tel: 01179 392755

Guide Deadline for the May 2016 Edition of “The Griff” will be mid April. Ed. (It can change!)

RAFPA SALES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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| B1   | Unbleached White Beret*  
Please send beret size with order | £12.50  |
| B4   | RAFPA Lapel Badge                                       | £4.00   |
| B5   | Beret Badge (RAFPA Crest)                              | £8.50   |
| B6   | RAFPA Blazer Badge                                     | £8.50   |
| C1   | RAFPA Cufflinks                                        | £7.50   |
| C2   | RAFPA Adjustable Cummerbund                            | £16.50  |
| C3   | Pocket Handkerchief  
Black & Red Diagonal Stripes | £7.00   |
| T4   | RAF Police Bow Tie  
Black & Red Diagonal Stripes | £9.00   |
| T5   | RAFPA Clip-on Tie  
Black/Red Diagonal Stripes with RAFPA crest | £12.00  |
| T6   | RAFPA Tie  
Black & Red Diagonal Stripes with RAFPA Crest | £10.00  |
| T7   | RAFPA Tie  
Black & Red Diagonal Stripes NO CREST | £8.00   |
| P1   | RAFPA Wall Shields, screen printed, light coloured wood base, 150 x 175 mm (5” X 7”) | £32.00  |

If possible please print this form to submit with your order: All items include package and posting and are available from:

Please make cheques payable to: RAFFPA (to accompany your order)
Mr A K Lake (Tony)
24 Trendlewood Park, Stapleton, Bristol, BS16 1TE
or Pay via PayPal direct to the Association Treasurer

Please make cheques payable to: RAFPA (to accompany your order) and write your name & address on the reverse of your order. Depending on stock availability orders will be dispatched within 5 working days of receipt of order.

For those wishing to purchase items from the RAF Police School “Provost Parade” Shop a list of merchandise can be found on the main RAFPA web site at http://www.rafpa.com/ppms.htm

*It is best not to shrink Berets, because they are not made with the same amount of material as the Service issue beret. It is best to lightly spray with water, fit and shape to head and then let dry on an upturned basin, or similar.
In 1930 Flt Lt Bill Liniker was the first CO of RAF Pembroke Dock, the Service's newest air station, he went on to become a Group Captain in WW2.

In the photograph he is pictured with the RAF Police Contingent in 1930. In no particular order, Jim Dooley, Flt Lt W. Liniker, Sgt Dick Johns, Jack Baskerville, Jack Perkins, Bert Greenaway, Charlie Morris and ... Fitzpatrick. The officers in the darker uniforms are Dockyard Police.

Submitted by: Taff Jones.
The Dedication of the Field of Remembrance,
Saltwell Park, Gateshead, on Saturday 31st October 2015

(L - R) Tom Padgett, Rowley Coulta, Roger Bishop, John Twigger, Edward Snailum and Alan Weeks (The dog man).

John Twigger having a natter with Group Captain Coleman, Commanding Officer, RAF Boulmer

Submitted by: Rowley Coulta

RAFPA Hants, Dorset & IOW Branch Members and Ex Mets (Sussex) Visit to RMPA North American Branch 13th Annual 2015 Branch Reunion – Victoria – Vancouver Island Canada

Attending: John Paice. BEM. RAFPA, Past Chairman, (Associate Member RMPA NAB) and Mrs. Babette Paice. Mr. John & Mrs. Cynthia Watch. RAFPA, Mr. Brian Field Ex (Mets) Scotland Yard, (Associate Member RMPA NAB).

Submitted by: John Paice
The Royal British Legion Field of Remembrance - Royal Wootton Bassett

Nine members of the Wiltshire Branch gathered once again at the Royal Wootton Bassett Field of Remembrance. This is the 6th such Remembrance Service attended since the Field of Remembrance was officially opened by HRH Prince Harry on the 9th November 2010. A poppy wreath was placed by Ivan Carey, Branch Chairman, against a cross dedicated to Corporal Brent McCarthy.

The photograph shows L to R: Phil Horton (Associate), Ken Ivie, Kim Hassall, Ivan Carey, Gordon Sidey, Brian Flinn, Ron Glover, John Crosby and Bill White.

Submitted by: Brian Flinn

Barrie Clarke, (EMB Standard Bearer) with John Limb (who laid the wreath) at the Remembrance Day parade at Lincoln Cathedral. 23 members attended on behalf of the RAFA.

Submitted by: John Curtis

Phill Rendell, Rotorua, New Zealand – ANZAC Day 100th Anniversary.

Submitted by: Neil Rusling

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