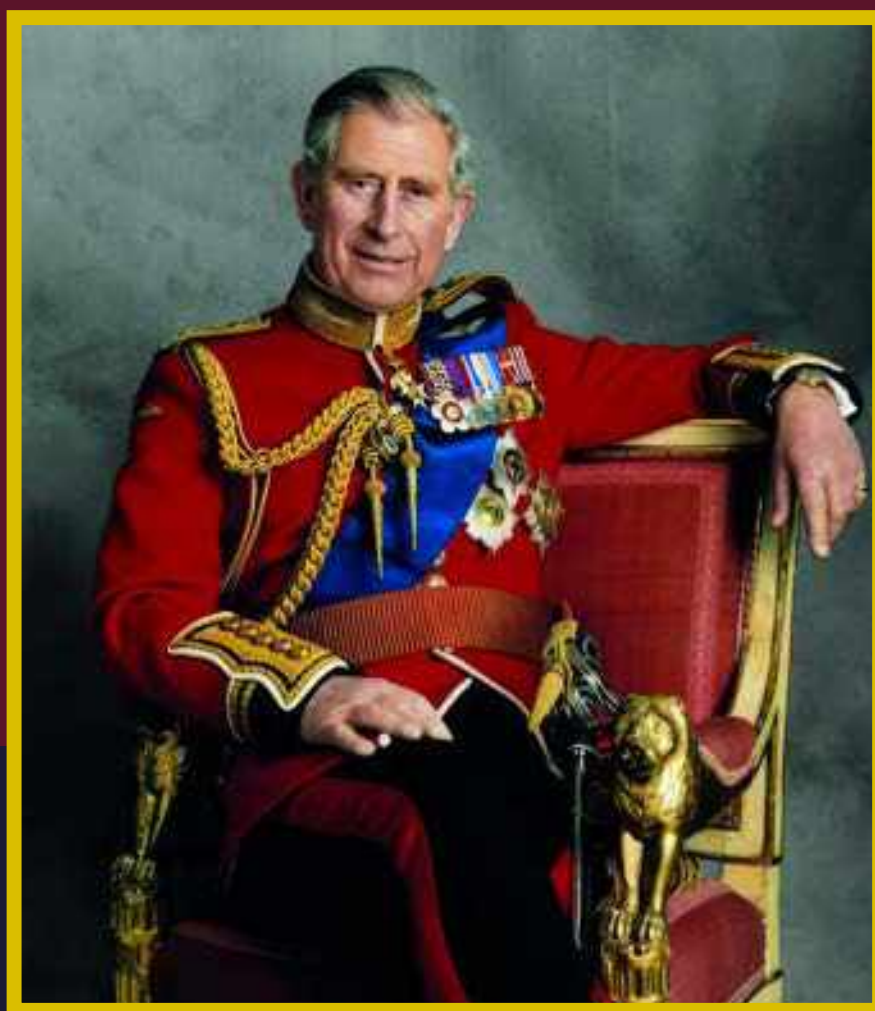


# MPS



No 132

2023



*The Regimental Journal of the*  
**Military Provost Staff Regiment *and***  
**Military Provost Staff Association**





# Military Provost Staff Regiment and Association Journal 2023

## **Editor**

Major (Retd) RG Corcoran MBE

## **Contributors**

The Editor would like to thank all contributors for their articles and photographs.

Apologies are given to the donors of the articles that have not been included.

The editor and publisher kindly request that photographs be supplied in jpg format if possible and at a resolution of 300 dots per inch at the size they will be printed. Original hard copy photographs are also fine.

## **Cover Photographs**

### **Front cover**

His Majesty King Charles III

### **Back cover**

The Military Corrective Training Centre at night

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Lieutenant Colonel Michael Clare Garsia CB - Father of the Corps.



# Military Provost Staff Regiment and Association Journal 2023

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## The Regiment

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### Deputy Colonel Commandant

Major General MH Jones OBE

### Provost Marshal (Army) and Army Competent Authority and Inspector

Brigadier SL Pringle-Smith

### Commanding Officer Military Provost Staff Regiment and Commandant Military Corrective Training Centre

Lieutenant Colonel MT Fielder RTR

(Lieutenant Colonel C Carter MBE LANCS (CO des wef 31 Jan 24))

### MPSC - MPS Regimental March

*The New Colonial*

### MPS Regimental Motto

*Veritas et Aequitas (Truth and Equity)*

### Regimental History - Notable Dates

*Formation of Military Provost Staff Corps - 1906*

*Formation of Military Provost Staff - 1992*

*Formation of Military Provost Staff Regiment - 2014*

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## Military Provost Staff Association

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### President and Chair

Brigadier SL Pringle-Smith

### Trustees

Major R Moffat AGC (MPS)

Major R Smith AGC (MPS)

Captain T Crickmore AGC (RMP)

WO1 (RSM) D Batterham

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) P Andrews OBE

Staff Sergeant E Mannion-Williams

Mr L Pearse

### Regimental Secretary

Major (Retd) RG Corcoran MBE

*Veritas et Aequitas - Truth and Equity*

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# Gazette

## Honours and Awards

*RHQ congratulates the following members of the MPS Regiment on their appointments and awards*

### **Commander of the Order of the British Empire**

Brigadier VW Buck, *formerly Provost Marshal (Army)*

### **Colonel Commandant's Adjutant General's Corps Commendation**

Mr Colin Pethick

### **Provost Marshal (Army) Commendation**

25156066 Sgt Kelson Hasely Thomas St Rose

## **Promotions**

### **Staff Sergeant to Warrant Officer Class 2**

25146484 SSgt R Bulivou  
25151875 SSgt A Hall  
25139010 SSgt A Herschell

### **Sergeant to Staff Sergeant**

21170604 SSgt K Rai  
24799381 SSgt K Mchenry  
30037289 SSgt S Gold  
30072126 SSgt A Hutchinson  
25203638 SSgt D Ward  
25203502 SSgt K Kapaiwai  
25169779 SSgt T Bielefelo  
30034578 SSgt D Isaac

### **Corporal to Sergeant**

30087144 Sgt R Mcgavin  
30172641 Sgt C Todd  
25208131 Sgt R James  
30071763 Sgt S L Tudor  
21171160 Sgt K Yonzon  
30103035 Sgt C Graham  
W1047686 Sgt S Nuku  
30058735 S Uluilakeba  
25211169 Sgt J Wright  
25118421 Sgt J Maher  
21170932 Sgt S Subba



## Assignments In

25201855	SSgt McKay	IC SCF NI	16 January 2023
25139010	SSgt Herschell	2IC Sec & Rec	30 January 2023
25116083	Sgt Ratukalou	Det Coy	6 February 2023
30094441	Cpl Sautu	SCF NI	28 February 2023
30042855	Sgt Palmer	Instructor Mil	20 March 2023
30081270	PO Gilbert	QM Dept	1 May 2023
30087129	Sgt Adjei	HQ	15 May 2023
D241127D	PO Casey	Det Coy	12 June 23
30101105	SSgt Stapleton	Det Coy	11 July 23
D255975E	PO Dickson	Det Coy	19 July 23
30156402	Cpl Newman	Ops Pl	31 July 23
K8437945	Sgt Nunn	Sec & Rec	1 August 2023
25162366	Capt Coombes	QM Dept	1 August 2023
Q8310206	Sgt Hobson	Det Coy	4 September 2023
30181422	PO Miles	Sec & Rec	2 October 2023
3002150	Sgt Wood	Sp Coy	9 October 2023
30085115	Cpl Gurung H	SCF South	16 October 2023
21171141	Sgt Ingnam Limbu	Det Coy	16 October 2023
21171920	Cpl Pun A	SCF South	16 October 2023
30210789	Cpl Taberner	SCF North	16 October 2023
21171814	Cpl Gurung J	SCF South	16 October 2023
30219827	Cpl Woodcock	Ops PL	16 October 2023
21171268	Cpl Rana R	SCF South	16 October 2023
25166993	Cpl Lambdon	QM Dept	6 November 2023
W1060895	WO2 Raine	Det Coy	20 November 2023

## Assignments Out

T8514588	A/Sgt Morrison	JNCO IC JRM	2 January 2023
30101105	SSgt Stapleton	BFSAI JSPSU	9 January 2023
30095658	Cpl Compton	19 Regt RA 127 Bty	9 January 2023
25099485	Sgt Burns	PRU East Aldershot	23 January 2023
25205669	Sgt Gurung K	BFC	20 February 2023
30117687	Sgt Lorito	DIRIB SSGT J1	13 March 2023
H8442143	Sgt Fleming	RAF Honington	13 March 2023
W148773K	PO Boyer	HMS ALBION	30 May 2023
D235572Q	PO Lambert	MWBS Red N3 BWC	26 June 2023
25226502	Sgt Parsons	BFSAI	17 July 2023
30121322	Sgt Gelder	RAF High Wycombe	7 August 2023
30183779	Capt Westland	Army HQ	1 November 2023
30146056	Sgt Ward L	DSPG	6 November 2023

## Transfers 2023

30085115	Cpl Gurung H
21171141	Sgt Ingnam Limbu P
21171920	Cpl Pun A
30210789	Cpl Taberner
21171814	Cpl Gurung J
30219827	Cpl Woodcock
21171268	Cpl Rana R



# Editorial

*Major (Retd) RG Corcoran MBE*

The Coronation of King Charles III has, understandably had a big impact on 2023. The MPS Regiment's representation is recorded in some detail. Everyone who participated was immensely proud to have taken part in such an historic event.

A warm welcome to the new Provost Marshal, Brigadier Sarah Pringle-Smith and congratulations to Brigadier Viv Buck, the former Provost Marshal, on her well deserved award of the CBE.

The MPS Regiment's families day event in May 2023 was a success and this year's event will be held on Saturday 8 June 2024. A Regimental Bulletin has already been sent out and more details will follow. The event is open to both serving personnel and veterans, and we look forward to seeing you all.

The new MPS Regiment and Association tie is available to purchase at the link below, it is based on the new Carolean era to reflect the new monarch.

<http://www.worthydownprishop.co.uk/products/mps-silk-tie/corps-amp-brigade-trf>



It was a pleasure to host Lt Col (Retd) David (Scud) Steel CO MPS Regt 2008 - 2011 at Garsia night in November, he had a thoroughly good evening.

Lt Col (Retd) Rupert Shaw, CO MPS Regt 2011 - 2013, sends his regards to everyone, and he has recently travelled to Ukraine as part of the, 'Pick Ups for Peace donation of Gledparks Isuzu'. The long road journey, the warmth and life in Lviv region at war. The video is available at [gledpark.co.uk](http://gledpark.co.uk), it is a very poignant film about life in Ukraine during the continuing war.

I had the pleasure of attending the Le Mans Classic event this year, to my surprise, adjacent to my tent, in a very smart camper van, were Paul and Sarah Garrity. Paul is the son of the late John Garrity and his mother, Sylvia is a member of the Association.

Many hours were spent reminiscing

over quite a few beers, how on earth we both managed to be in adjacent slots, in a large camp site, in the Porsche curves, after a 400 mile journey is beyond me! They all send their regards to everyone who knew them and Paul's late father John.

The Regimental Journal is only as good as the articles it receives, it is a reflection of both serving and veterans, please do consider submitting an article, it will be published.

I would like to thank Lt Col Mike Fielder RTR, CO MPS Regiment for his unwavering support for all things MPS during his tenure, he, and his wife, Andrea have been strong supporters of the MPS, and I do know that they will continue to support us in the future.

Finally I would like to welcome Lt Col Chris Carter MBE LANCS as the new CO MPS Regiment.

## Major General Matthew H Jones OBE Director Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (Dir ISR)

Major General Matthew Jones grew up in Portsmouth and studied history at Cambridge University. He commissioned into the Intelligence Corps in 1998. He has completed a wide range of regimental duty and intelligence appointments including four years attached to the Royal Marines. Over the years his operational service has included deployments to East Timor, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the wider Middle East, and Afghanistan.

His company command was with 4 Military Intelligence Battalion and included deployment to Helmand as 16 Air Assault Brigade's senior intelligence officer. In 2011 he was assigned to the Afghanistan team in the MOD's Operations Directorate and in 2012 attended the Advanced Command and Staff Course. His Lt Col staff appointment was in the Army Headquarters where he worked as the lead operational planner and led Commander Land Forces' Initiatives Group. Major General Jones commanded 4 Military Intelligence



Battalion between 2015-2017. Over this period he also led 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade's Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Group.

In August 2017, Major General Jones became the Chief of Staff of HQ Force Troops Command. During this assignment he also attended the Higher Command and Staff Course. He then became Chief of Staff of the reformed 6th (UK) Division in 2019. In July 2020 he promoted to Brigadier and assumed command of 1st ISR Brigade and the 3rd (UK) Division Information Manoeuvre Group. In December 2021 he returned to the MOD and took up the role of Head Military Strategy and Plans. Promoted to Major General, he became Director Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (Dir ISR) formerly known as Director Cyber, Intelligence and Information Integration (DCI3) within Defence Intelligence in August 2023.

Major General Jones lives in Salisbury and is married with two young children.

## Provost Marshal (Army) Brigadier Sarah L Pringle-Smith

An Honours Graduate of Cardiff University, with a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, Brigadier Sarah Pringle-Smith was commissioned into the Adjutant General's Corps (Royal Military Police) from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in August 1998.

An alumnus of the Advanced Command and Staff Course, and more recently the Higher Command and Staff Course, Brigadier Sarah has commanded at every rank both Regular and Reserve officers and soldiers.

Her operational experience includes a millennium tour to the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as deployments on Operation TELIC in 2003 and Operation HERRICK in 2012. During her second tour to Northern Ireland, she witnessed the end of Operation BANNER and was actively involved in the transition to Operation HELVETIC. She has served as Chief of Staff on three separate occasions, with consecutive appointments at 1 Military Police Brigade, the Directorate Capability (Army) and Headquarters Provost Marshal (Army).

With 26 years experience as a Royal Military Police officer, she has seamlessly balanced roles within the



Special Investigation Branch; General Police Duties; and a range of wider Army, Joint and Defence appointments. Her last appointment as a Colonel was Director of the Advanced Command and Staff Course at the United Kingdom's Defence Academy before her appointment in June 2023 as the Provost Marshal (Army).

Sarah was acknowledged in the category of Outstanding Contribution in the Women in Defence Awards in 2017, for her role in delivering organisational change within 1 Military Police Brigade. She has been a Co-Chair and Executive Director of the Army Servicewomen's Network and has also been a mentor as part of the 30% Club, a global campaign led by senior leaders and Chief Executive Officers taking action to increase gender diversity at board and executive committee levels.

She continues to demonstrate a personal commitment to diversity and inclusivity as an ally.

Outside her professional life, Sarah enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends. She is married to Richard, and together they have two teenage daughters, two German Shorthaired Pointers and are season ticket holders for Swindon Wildcats.



# Provost Marshal's Notes

*Brigadier SL Pringle-Smith*

It is a genuine honour to pen my first foreword as Provost Marshal (Army) for the Military Provost Staff Regiment and Association Journal. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working alongside the exceptional officers and soldiers of the Military Provost Staff. From my experiences in Iraq to Afghanistan and the present day, the dedication and professionalism of this esteemed organisation have never failed to inspire me.

In my previous appointment as Assistant Head of Military Police and as an advisor on Head of Profession matters, I have had the privilege of collaborating with many Commanding Officers of the Military Provost Staff Regiment, offering valuable insights and guidance. Our joint efforts led to the development of the Personnel Reform Intervention to enhance Military Effectiveness (PRIME), a small yet impactful initiative addressing soldiers' behaviours. I am delighted to see that PRIME is making a real difference, preventing soldiers from escalating into the Service Justice System and bolstering soldier retention.

Additionally, in this previous role, I actively participated in the advancement of detention policy, specifically concerning the United Kingdom's commitment to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and various other deployments. Reflecting on this experience, it was not merely a temporal engagement but an enduring chapter in the ongoing narrative of operational detention connecting with my present advisory role to the Chief of Joint Operations. The echoes of historical engagements resonate in the current landscape, emphasising the enduring commitment to excellence in our military endeavours. And as we all navigate present challenges, we do so grounded in the rich history of dedication and service, ensuring a seamless continuity between past and present.

Taking on the role of Provost Marshal (Army) in June 2023, I have tirelessly reinforced the crucial role of the Military Provost Staff, especially the Military Corrective Training Centre, in the Service Justice System. Witnessing the dedication and professionalism of all Regimental staff first-hand has been truly awe-inspiring. In the complexities of the modern military landscape, your commitment to excellence, resilience,



and ethical standards remains paramount.

In the latter half of 2023, pressures within the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office presented an opportunity for us to strengthen our role in Defence. Exploratory approaches from these departments prompted a critical assessment of our business, identifying efficiencies and transformative growth. It was heartening to witness the professional approach shown by all areas within the Regiment during this unsettling period. Rest assured, every effort has been made, and will continue, to ensure that Service custody and detention remains a 'no fail' capability and is recognised as a critical component of the Service Justice System.

During one of my visits to the Military Corrective Training Centre in 2023, I had the pleasure of engaging with a diverse array of resolute individuals—Regulars, Reservists, Civil Service members, and invaluable external partners, including the Probation Service. This encounter vividly underscored the Regiment's distinctive hybrid character, a source of considerable strength. Moreover, it was a joyous occasion as I had the privilege of presenting numerous Long Service and Good Conduct Medals,

along with a Clasp. These accolades were bestowed in recognition of the exceptional contributions our personnel consistently offer. Such moments serve as a powerful testament to the unwavering commitment and exemplary conduct exhibited by the members of our esteemed Regiment.

In November 2023, we unveiled a vision and strategic objectives for Provost, marking a significant milestone. Crafted for the challenges of the modern era, this framework guides us toward excellence. I urge all members to familiarise themselves with this Vision, ensuring excellence at every juncture. A noteworthy illustration of the Military Provost Staff commitment to these objectives is evident in the crucial support provided to Operation INTERFLEX. The delivery of operational detention training stands as a prime example, reinforcing our role as detention specialists and contributing significantly to the success of this Defence mission. The dedication of Military Provost Staff meeting these challenges head-on is truly commendable and integral to the realisation of our strategic vision.

As the Head of Profession, Inspector of Service Custody Premises, and President of the Military Provost Staff Association, I encourage you to delve into the pages of this Journal. It is a collection of insightful articles and perspectives that reflect the depth of knowledge and expertise within the Military Provost Staff. It is essential for us to share experiences, review lessons learned, and seek innovative approaches. I am confident that the contributions will elevate our collective understanding and foster continuous improvement. Looking ahead to 2024, I anticipate witnessing the impact of our work and the continued positive influence it will undoubtedly have on Defence.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all individuals across the four Services who tirelessly serve within the Military Provost Staff Regiment, contributing immensely to the provision of Service detention and custody. Your roles as detention specialists are pivotal in offering broader support to Defence. I sincerely appreciate your unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions, which align seamlessly with the cherished values of truth and equity. Thank you for your dedication and unwavering efforts.

*Veritas et Aequitas*

# Commanding Officer's Notes

*Lieutenant Colonel MT Fielder RTR*

This is my third and final report to you in this Journal in my capacity as Commanding Officer of the MPS Regiment and Commandant of MCTC, due as I am to hand-over command imminently.

It has been a year of continuity in some respects. Support to Ukraine remains the British Army's, and our, first operational priority; we continue to train Ukrainian recruits in prisoner of war handling under the auspices of Operation INTERFLEX and remain committed to supporting Operation CABRIT in Estonia. Our responsibility for the safe custody and detention of our own personnel continues to be discharged through MCTC and the SCFs, as well as by our personnel stationed in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands.

And yet it has of course been an extremely busy year. First we have welcomed a new Provost Marshal (Army), Brigadier Sarah Pringle-Smith, whose generous notes you will find in these pages and who has been for many years and remains a staunch supporter of the Regiment.

In terms of our commitments, we have deployed personnel at home and abroad in support of UK's 1st and 3rd Divisions, as well as Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), as they proceed along their various training pathways in preparation for war. These commitments will increase in the coming year, with no let-up from Operation INTERFLEX and with the coming Exercise LINOTYPER in mainland Europe, one of the largest UK exercises to take place in recent times.

We have also operated beyond Europe, deploying personnel to Zambia and Malawi as part of training teams working with UK partners in Africa. Closer to home we have developed our higher risk detainee escort capability under Operation CARRIAGE, which



will include delivery of a bespoke escort vehicle for the MPS in 2024. We have also seen change within the SCF estate, with workforce reductions resulting in changes to the licensing of all but two of our UK SCFs. The second half of 2023 was also marked by serious attempts from other government departments to move the MPS from MCTC. So what to make of it all?

I have two observations in light of the breadth and nature of our commitments in 2023. The first is this: our mission, home and abroad, engages us at the tactical and strategic levels in a way that very few organisations of our size do. What do I mean by that? Well, a Sergeant working with a high-risk detainee in Detention Company, or a civil servant doing the same in the

Education Centre may, through their empathy, compassion, experience and expertise be able to set the detainee on a pathway to rehabilitation, self-worth and fulfilment. That is deeply personal work, taking place at the individual level, but with strategic value in what it prevents.

If we failed that same detainee and they hurt themselves or someone else, the consequences would resonate not only with the individuals involved, not only with MCTC, but through the Service Justice System itself. We all know the relevance of this point to deployed operations: we feel the reverberations of Baha Mousa's death even now. We should remember to take pride in the bad things that don't happen on our watch as much as the good things that do, because they make a difference.

My second observation is related to the first. Our good conduct and professionalism has built our reputation over time, and our reputation protects us. During the months of interest paid to the MCTC site last year, the one thing not in question was our performance and standing as a Regiment. Our standing and ability to provide safe and secure rehabilitation of offenders is central to the integrity and credibility not only of MCTC and the MPS Regiment, but of the Service Justice System itself. The little things we do well come together to make the foundation on which it stands or falls. Do not underestimate the value that you, as a serving member of staff, add each and every day, no matter how routine you make think your shift has been.


So it simply remains for me to say thank you to all of the members of staff, military and civilian, serving or retired, that I have had the pleasure to serve and to meet during my tenure as the Commanding Officer, it has been the greatest honour of my professional life. Thank you.




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LIKE HOME  
RIGHT  
AWAY.”**

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# Education Department

Once again it has been another productive year in the education department. The department has had a high number of detainees pass through, they leave us better prepared to face civilian life with many qualifications and an array of skills learnt in the ELC.

As well as the ELC, the Education Department benefits from offering courses in Construction, Welding and Garage skills; all the instructors have been kept on their toes with a steady number attending and achieving the certification.

At the Farm Mr Pete Phillips and Sgt Fletcher continue to keep the detainees busy with projects and animal husbandry and maintenance. The Farm estate has been an oasis of calm in an everlasting sea of turmoil, a place for the detainees to go to be at one with nature and the land.

We are still providing a high level of support by engaging and facilitating with many external agencies. These agencies are frequent visitors to the department, to advise and signpost service leavers. These agencies offer an array of skills offers, advice and employment support to assist service personnel that are leaving the forces.

## Farewells

Mrs Lorraine Allan has left us on retirement after 15 years at MCTC and over 30 years in the Civil Service- she is deeply missed.



**Mr Colin Pethick and the construction workshop.**



**The ELC Staff always happy to help.**



SSgt Mark Mann has left us on completion of his 24 years colour service, a great achievement also, and again is deeply missed. He moves on to his career in the MPGS while building up his portfolio and expand his business as a plasterer.

We wish both the best of luck for the future and thank them, for both their hard work and their friendship.

#### Arrivals

SSgt Lees has arrived from SCF Coy HQ and is posted in as Education 2IC.



Christmas 2022.

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## Operations and Training Company

2023 has seen some changes in structure for the Operations and Training Company, amalgamating Support Company and the Operations Platoon to increase effectiveness and consolidate outputs. It has made for an extremely productive year facilitating operational detention outputs throughout the country with Op Interflex.

Under the command of Capt (Officer Commanding) M Jackson and WO2 (Company Sergeant Major) Carver, Operations and Training Company and its staff have delivered specialist custody and detention training capability in support of the Service Justice System, in both the home base and overseas.

Military training has continued to

deliver a top-quality product with their delivery of both ITRs and training to the detainees. This is evidenced with the community engagement with Hawk farm facilitated through the Phoenix Heroes charity and Sgt Andy Blewden and SSgt Gold's appearance on the channel 5 documentary.

Concurrently, the creation and development of a Special to Arms Operational Detention Course has sought to improve overall understanding of the MPS's role on operations and give the oncoming readiness personal the opportunity to tackle big detention questions in a safe learning environment. This will be the base line in order to build on and improve, as our operational

involvement develops and grows in line with the Army's increasing commitments.

Operations and Training Company would like to congratulate WO2 Harte on successfully passing Officer selection, he is wished all the best wherever he is employed next. Congratulations also go to Sgt Gold who has been promoted to SSgt and now employed with Reserve Company.

We would like to say farewell to WO2 Jenkins and WO2 Thornton who have both left the Army after 22 years' service.

Overall, a positive, but increasingly busy year for Operations and Training company with much more to come in the future.

## Headquarter Company

HQ Company has seen many comings and goings, with a number of personnel completing their service and transitioning into civilian life, as well as postings on promotion.

During the past year, the following have departed after completing their colour service; Sgts Mason, Struczynski, and PO Greene. The following have also moved on; Capt Westland on posting to PM(A), SSgt Herschell posted on promotion to WO, Sgt Bielefelo posted on promotion to SSgt, Sgt Jones on posting to the Training Wing and PO Lambert on posting back to the RN.

With the outgoing, there a number of

incomings and HQ Company welcomes SSgt Ward on promotion posted in as IC Security and Receptions, with the following assigned to Security and Receptions; Sgts Naylor, Nunn RAF, Parker, Thapa and finally PO Miles.

As well as the normal day to day running of the department, we have had some external tasks with Sgt Newbatt and Sefer the Military Working Dog (MWD) continuing with joint operations with the RMP and Essex Police. Sgt Newbatt has also attended the inaugural NATO MWD Conference held in Poland.

Whilst there has been some turbulence within the department, there has been a

bit of a change to the normal routine due to the filming of the MCTC documentary in which a number of staff have taken part in, whilst they filmed the admission process as part of the Detainee journey. Sgt Struczynski gave numerous interviews, however, sadly none of them appeared in the documentary.

On a sporting note, Sgt Jones has continued to running Boxing camps for various members of the MPS Regiment and the AGC Boxing team, culminating in Sgt McGavin being the first member of the MPS to represent the Regiment in a Boxing competition.

# HQ PM (A) Detention and Custody Team

*Maj Becky Smith*

*Capt Colin Vella*

*WO1 Matt Gorski*

*SSgt (now WO2) Tony Hall*

*SSgt Kev McHenry*

The HQ PM(A) Custody and Detention (C&D) Team continue to be busy with various Custody and Detention work strands, both in the Firm Base and Operational areas. The team has seen a couple of changes this year; having completed a full and fruitful Army career, WO1 Matt Gorski left the team and the Army in September to begin his new life in civvy street. Fresh from his time in front of the camera's as one of the 'stars' of the MCTC documentary, SSgt Kev McHenry joined the HQ PM(A) team as the SA Custodial Training in September, taking over from SSgt (now WO2) Tony Hall who has returned to the MCTC on promotion where he is now employed as the SPSI and whilst endeavouring to put his new found 'stardom' to one side is busy delivering the Unit CPERs Coordinators Course (UCCC) to tri-Service personnel in the UK and overseas.

In July the HQ PM(A) C&D team, alongside a dedicated team from the NATO Military Police Centre of excellence (COE) were at the forefront of delivering an inaugural Operational Detention Forum which was held at the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth.

The main purpose of the forum was primarily to engage the community of interest in CPERs issues, coordinate future activities and to collect best practices and observations concerning CPERs and POW from recent operations and to use this knowledge in future actions. It also served as a platform for the NATO MP community of interest to consider contemporary detention challenges and advance thinking surrounding the utility and National provisions associated with the development of a common NATO operational detention doctrine.

The Forum was attended by 63 delegates from 19 Nations, along with representatives from the ICRC and Red Cross and was a resounding success and whilst recognising the expertise held by the UK, PM(A) was kindly requested to lead in the development of NATO detention processes.



In the area of firm base custody and detention, we continue to conduct annual Service Custody Inspection and Licensing (SCIL) visits of all UK and overseas Service Custody Premises. Although there are currently only 10 operational SCF's across the estate in addition to the MCTC, this saw both WO1 Gorski and Capt Vella (when WO1 Gorski was on his resettlement courses) on the road for much of the period between April and December each year.

With the exception of the Royal Navy who continue to conduct Operational Detention in the Maritime Environment (ODME) activity, we are not currently deployed on any Detention Operations. Despite this there is still a significant amount of operational detention training taking place across the UK and overseas for UK troops. This has seen an increase in requests for the HQ PM(A) C&D team to deliver physical CPERs training 'on the ground' and also through presentations, some of which have been delivered via virtual means and have included presentations to our NATO partners. We are not just involved in the training delivery, one of Capt Vella's primary roles is to validate any CPERs training activity and this includes ODME and also the training delivered by the MPS Regiment as part of OP INTERFLEX, so when he has not been

conducting the SCIL visits, he has been busy visiting various locations to make sure that all CPERs training is being carried out correctly.

Not wanting to be the only member of the team 'hamstrung' to the HQ PM(A) floorplate, and although the NATO Operational Detention Forum in July enabled her to get out and about and also reap the benefits of re-visiting her old 'stomping ground' from her time in the Royal Navy at the same time, Maj Smith has recently attended the Military Police Panel which took place in Vicenza, Italy in November. Whilst she represented the UK and HQ PM(A)/1 MP Bde, she added value as UK detention specialist and also took part in the initial planning discussions for establishing a CPERs doctrine writing group.

The above is only a snippet of the activity that the HQ PM(A) team have been or are currently involved in and as we continue to develop relationships with our NATO MP Counterparts.. Working as part of the HQ PM(A) C&D team is testing, the tempo keeps us busy for the majority of the time, but it is extremely rewarding and offers a myriad of opportunities and experiences, I think we can safely say that we all enjoy working as part of a niche team of detention specialist within a very busy 1\* HQ.

# Gymnasium

## MPS Regiment and Military Corrective Training Centre Gymnasium

*WO2 (QMSI) Dave Hagan*



### Functional training rig.

The team at MCTC consists of WO2 (QMSI) D Hagan RAPT, Sgt T Gelder (RAF) who was replaced by Sgt Wood (RAF), SIO PT J Browne and M Door who retired after many decades as part of the MCTC and MPS Regt as an MPS Soldier reaching WO2 and then a dependable SOIPT. The team deliver PD, AT and local Rehabilitation for the detainees held at MCTC and the

permanent MPS Regt and augmented staff from RN and RAF.

The big project this year has been the gym uplift. The long-suffering PD and MPS Regt staff have been training with barely adequate equipment for some time, the QMSI and team were able to proactively secure funds to bring the gym into this century, in line with the Army Physical Training Strategy. With

an emphasis on functional training, contact was made with Pulse Fitness with the aim of getting them to build a bespoke indoor rig. Not only would this support the training of MPS Regt staff to complete the SCR and RFT(S), but also support the impressive growth of British Army Warrior Fitness. In the planning stage for some time the rig was eventually fitted in February 2023 and



**7's Team (002).**



has been put into good use ever since. Alongside the rig, the gym flooring was uplifted throughout all training areas, we also received a range of functional training equipment, such as olympic bars, wall balls, and bumper weight plates which all provide a wide range of opportunities for personnel to enhance their personal training sessions as well as improving the possibilities for group PD sessions.

Regarding sport, there have been some great individual and team successes. Individually, SIO PT Jack Browne achieved joint first in the Army Indoor Rowing League this year in the 30-39 open age category, and Sgt Tony Coulter achieved third in the 40-49 age category of the same competition. A scratch team of 14 MPS Regt personnel with only two days of training, went on a raiding party to RMP Rugby 7's, held at the Defence School of Policing and Guarding and ran out victorious, with only minor scrapes and without any major injuries. This was a considerable triumph considering the inexperience of the team and the lack of training, but is certainly testament to the coaching ability and desire of the players to represent the MPS Regt. This year has also seen the return of CO's



**Capt Wooley MPS physical challenge.**



**Sgt Adeji and SSgt Forde with the rest of the MPS team.**



# Gymnasium



### Physical challenge.

Cup sport, in the form of the MPS Regt Garsia Sports Shield. So far there have been four individual sports competitions comprising of Volleyball, Quick Cricket, 5-a-side Football and Uni-Hoc.

The Regt were host to the 1 MP Bde Southern Cross Competition, which was overseen by the QMSI and team on the 20 September 2023. The competition was high for first place, with five teams in total entering the competition, which was a march and shoot involving a total of 4 miles loaded march/run timed, eight physical challenges, a kit inspection, a battlefield first aid scenario stand, a military knowledge stand, which culminated in a shoot. The MPS Regt fielded the most senior in rank, in experience and age team then proved that their fitness, knowledge and skills reflected their experience by succeeding in winning the competition!



WO2 QMSI Hagan and SSgt Jim White briefing teams at the start point.



Winners MPS Regiment - Sgt Adjei, SSgt Hutchinson, SSgt Walkington, SSgt Unwin, Capt Woolley, Sgt Corbett, WO2 Ward, SSgt Forde



# Regimental Sport

## Golf



WO2 Jenkins, Sgts Lund, Parker and Rai representing the MPS at the SSAFA charity golf day. The team get second overall, besting the current CO's team.



WO2 Jenkins and Sgt Lund representing the AGC Golf team on the Portugal 23 Golf tour.

## 1 MP Brigade Cup Rugby 7s Tournament

*by Cpl A Tuca, SCF South*

It has been an incredible pleasure and honour to be able to represent the MPS Regiment in sports (Rugby) alongside my primary profession. The favourite part of the competition was the opportunity to play as a team, as we would say in Fiji (VEILOMANI: LOVE ONE ANOTHER), enhancing sportsmanship and promoting the culture that "Failing is part of the process to Win". A scratch team of 11 MPS Regiment personnel with only two days of training, coached by Capt Woolley and SSgt Hayward went on a raiding party to the RMP 7's held at the Defence School of Policing and Guarding (DSPG).

MPS Regiment Defending Champions

Thursday 11 May 2023 saw the return of the Annual 1 MP BDE Rugby 7's tournament, held at the home of DSPG, in Southwick Park. Our preparation started with a few days training at MCTC, conducting team runs and handling drills. There was a wealth of experience within the team and early on we were confident that we were on to something good.

With a last team run at MCTC on the afternoon of Wednesday 10 May 2023,



we lost Sgt 'Buff' Bielefelo to injury prior to travelling down to Portsmouth.

Game Day: we were up early to get in the right mindset before the start of a long and arduous day. Our first game was against the CJPU (Cyprus); we took to the field, after conceding a try early in the first half, we were down 12-0 at half time. Second half saw us put on two tries, both converted by Corporal's Rainima

and McGavin, which saw our first victory with the score resting at 14-12 to MPS Regt. Next, came 156 Provost Company, where we certainly couldn't let off the gas as the much younger RMP team saw them moving the ball around the field constantly looking for gaps. Using our experience, we kept things under control and played our game with tries coming from SSgt Ratumaitavuki, Cpls



# Regimental Sport



Tuca and Rainima. We walked off with a thrashing win of 29 -0 to the MPS Regt.

Not due to play for a further 30 minutes, food and drink was consumed to keep the level of ability at it's best for the remaining games. The day brought with it, soaring heat, which saw us taking shelter from the sun, hydrating, and stretching off, at any given opportunity and more importantly, ready for semi-finals against the DSPG team. It was our time to play, we took to the field a little stiff and sore from the previous games, we knew that we had to keep the momentum going and for the next 14 minutes, the MPS Regt persevered. Again, having in the back of my mind 'VEILOMANI', which saw us swiftly followed by tries from Sgt White, Corporal Mcgavin and SSgt Kapaiwai. This specific game was also coupled with some of the biggest tackles and hits I've seen in a long time; we were certainly making ourselves known from the side-line and showing that the MPS had shown up. The Final whistle blew, resulting in yet another win for us with a score tallying to 14-5 to the MPS, reaching the finals unbeaten with a 3-0 score card.

The final saw us up against a robust, young, and rugby mature Police Troop



(CJPU); with next to no time to rest following a gruelling semi-final; the MPS Regt took to the field with a view to retaining their title. We kicked to them and immediately knew we were up against it. Big tackles came from them, and our energy depleted fast, after conceding a try early on again in the first half, with the score recording at 12-0 at half time. We looked around at each other and subconsciously made a pact to keep going, to let our experiences and strength shine through; finally, a try from Corporal Rainima; lifted everyone's spirits. Following the restart, again

there was no let-up, amazing handling from CJPU, and some incredible set pieces sealed another try, but the MPS Regt never rest on their laurels, we continued to run the ball up the pitch, side stepping, and hand offs were coming from everywhere, just to get us over the line once more. The last restart came, it saw the game getting more aggressive with bigger tackles from both teams from all directions, it was evident that both teams were now tiring, yet CJPU were able to capitalise on this more than the MPS Regt, with a few missed tackles saw CJPU score again. We, 'the MPS' Regt managed to keep the ball out of our half as full-time whistle blew, giving an end score of 17-14 to CJPU. Sadly, the MPS Regt were unable to retain the title this year, but we will return, stronger, fitter, and ready to take back the trophy for next year.

A special thank you to Capt Woolley, SSgt Hayward and Sgt Fenn for their flawless coaching and team management throughout, and to all the players who made the MPS Regiment team a joy to be part of and Sgt Rigby for the light physio and stretching he afforded the team. To unpack my thoughts, feelings and emotions to this story will always be so uplifting.



## Exercise Manneken Pis Brussels AGC Basketball Belgium 7-13 May 2023

Sgt Peters represented Detention Company and the MPS Regt on Exercise Manneken Pis Brussels AGC Basketball Belgium 07-13 May 2023. The squad consisted of 24 players, 12 x male and 12 x female and the AGC Management team. As a Coach of the AGC Basketball Senior and Junior men's team, this was a great opportunity to conduct Basketball training and develop team cohesion prior to the Army Inter Corps Championship competition in June 2023.

This exercise sparks a huge interest across the Corps, where it attracts new faces like Corporal Southey from SCF Midlands and Wales, who is a great asset to the team. Corporal Southey played exceptionally well, sharing his experience and skills with other players.

It was nice to see Sgt Peters step back from coaching to play against (SHAPE) a local team of American players. The game was played at a very high standard, but the Americans got the better of the AGC squad 47-66 final score. Sgt Peters did not just play well but lead from the front as the top scorer with 16 points.

The team enjoyed the training and team cohesion with a team meal and cultural visit to Grand Place in Brussels. One of the many highlights of the overseas visit were the challenge, where



the management team played the rest of the squad. The Management Team outscored the regular players and now

has all the bragging rights. This will now be an AGC tradition for the future of AGC Basketball.



# Regimental Sport

## Boxing

MPS Boxing began with Sgt McGavin volunteering to represent MPS Regiment boxing in AGC's match in March 2022. This match was cancelled. This year Sgt McGavin volunteered to represent the MPS Regiment, boxing in the AGC v The Royal Anglian Regiment in November 2023, making this event the MPS Regiment's first ever Boxing match in history of MPS Regiment.

The training attracted, Cpl Graham (MPS) and Capt Knight (RMP), who both attended training when possible. Cpl Graham had lost 9 kg in weight, and then couldn't be matched to a particular opponent. Disappointed, but remaining keen, he volunteered to support the event by assisting in the administration on fight night to promote the smooth running of the event. The training programmes were published each week by the MPS Regiment coaches from August 2023 until the fight night in November 2023. All volunteers worked extremely hard, and remained passionate to learn new skills, work on weight management and generate a base line for the beast mode mindset for the match. Coaches formulated training camps for the boxers to attend over the months leading to the fight night, which proved to be challenging to attend with shift patterns and personal commitments take into



**From left, Coaches: Cpl Panton, Sgt Jones. Boxer: Sgt McGavin, CO: Lt Col Fielder.**

consideration. Sgt McGavin lost 16 kg to get into the ring for fight night. He achieved this by maintaining a keen eye on his weight management and keeping his physical strength to a high standard.

The fight night was an electrically charged event, with support from MPS Regiment HQ spectating. The nerves were running high, with the general feel of determination running through the air.

Sgt McGavin's opponent was slightly taller than he was, proving he would have to use his skills to best practice. However, the fight was stopped by the referee in the second round when Sgt McGavin took a few punches to the head. The fight was won by his Royal Anglian opponent. The defeat hasn't stopped Sgt McGavin. He is preparation for next years AGC fight.

## Coaching Boxing in India to Schoolchildren

*by Cpl Panton*

I transferred to the MPS in 2021, I am known as Pants to my friends and work colleagues and since transferring I have been posted to SCF (N).

I have always been heavily involved in boxing, whether that was competing or coaching. Since transferring to the MPS I have been heavily involved in coaching the MPS Regt boxing team in preparation for the AGC Corps Championship in May 2022 and the upcoming AGC Corps Championships in November 2023.

I have also been coaching the AGC at their boxing camps leading up to this event. I have recently completed my level 2 England Boxing Coaching course and am excited to bring my added qualifications to both the MPS Regt and the wider Army in the future.

Always looking for a new challenge and opportunity to develop both myself and others, I set out on finding my next adventure on which to pursue. This came by complete chance, whilst studying for





my BA (Hons) degree in Counselling, I stumbled across an advertisement for volunteers to teach street children a skill as part of a development project in Delhi, India.

After making some initial enquiries as to whether I could coach boxing skills, I registered my interest and as I had a recent DBS check for coaching boxing, I was fortunate enough to be accepted. This was it, I had found my next adventure, the next thing to do was to save up the money that it was going to cost for me to fly to India and support myself for the nine days that I would be there.

My journey to India began on the evening of Saturday, when I arrived at Heathrow, checked in and waited to board my flight. After a nine-hour flight, I arrived in New Delhi. I then met up with a group of volunteers, who were offering skills such as teaching English, arts and crafts, hair dressing amongst other things. We met up with our tour guide and waited for our connecting bus that was going to take us to our 2-star accommodation for the next nine days. One of the first things I noticed whilst waiting for the bus was the pollution within the air was noticeable with smog. There was a group of Hindu men who were singing, dancing, and playing the bongos, whilst also chanting religious sounds, this made the wait for the bus enjoyable and gave me a sense of their religious culture.

On arrival at the hotel, I immediately unpacked, had a shower and went to sleep as it was the early hours of the morning. I was excited about starting



*‘They taught me how to call out the numbers in Indian and found my pronunciation of them hilarious!’*

at the ‘Street and Slum Education Centre’ and teaching a new skill to the underprivileged children. On first appearance of the children, it was clear to see how little these children had, and that inspired me to give them as much of my time as I could to make their day

just a little bit better than it otherwise would be.

We started our sessions early in the morning before it got too hot and to keep the children enthusiastic and interested, I made the sessions enjoyable, more akin to a boxercise class than formal boxing training. I started by teaching them the fundamentals of boxing, starting with the basics of footwork and how to throw a jab, ‘one’ ‘two’ and how to hold the pads correctly. I was amazed at the level of English that they were able to speak and understand. They taught me how to call out the numbers in Indian and found my pronunciation of them hilarious. There were two of the children that seemed to pick up the skills relatively quickly and were enthusiastic about continuing some boxing training in the future. The other children appeared to thoroughly enjoy the sessions and seeing the smiles on their faces made my day.

The children loved calling me ‘Coach’. I had brought them all a set of union jack wraps and donated some pads and gloves to the centre so that they could continue to practice and develop their skills upon my departure. When I wasn’t coaching, I was helping to paint walls within the centre as part of the refurbishment work. On the last day, the children made me a card which said how much they would miss me. For me, this made it all worth it, having the satisfaction that I had made a difference to these children and gave them the opportunity to learn a new skill. It was completely heart-warming to know they had enjoyed their time with me and that I had been given the opportunity to give a skill to the children who were truly happy to learn from me.

In between working at the school, we used our time to visit the Taj Mahal, the Lotus Temple, Guru Dwara (which is the Sikh super kitchen that feeds 30,000 homeless per day and make over 100,000 chapatis daily to feed the homeless, the Akshardham Temple, the markets of Delhi, Birla House (where Gandhi was assassinated) and a WW2 War Memorial.

What I have taken away from this experience is to be grateful for what you have and to always be kind to yourself and others. These children literally live in the slums calling derelict buildings home, but they still get up every day and try to do the best that they can, with the little that they have with absolutely no technology in sight and still manage to have smiles on their little faces..





# Regimental Sport

## Crown Services Volleyball Tournament - June 2023

*by Sgt Sidney*



The Crown Services Volleyball Tournament kicked off on 10th June 2023, and this time, I found myself in a different role. As the main middle hitter/blocker on the Army Volleyball team, I assumed the position of assistant coach for this competition. It was a unique experience, stepping back from the front lines to contribute to the team's strategy and cohesion.

Our team's performance was outstanding throughout the tournament. Despite my shift to an off-court role, the pride and excitement were palpable as we clinched victory. Watching from the sidelines, I felt a different kind of fulfilment, knowing I played a part in shaping our tactics and supporting my teammates.



### European Masters Volleyball Tournament - Finland, June 2023

Transitioning from assistant coach to vice captain, I rejoined the lineup for the European Masters Volleyball Tournament in Finland. The international stage brought new challenges, and our team approached each match with determination and a collective will to succeed.

Reaching the final match was a testament to our team's skill and resilience. As the vice captain, I aimed to provide leadership both on and off the court. Although we secured



second place, falling just short of the championship, the journey was a testament to our collective strength and sportsmanship.

Reflecting on these tournaments, I appreciate the dynamic roles I played – from guiding strategies as an assistant coach to contributing as a player and vice captain.

It reinforced the importance of adaptability and teamwork. Every spike, block, and decision made on the court contributed to our shared success and the camaraderie that defines our Army Volleyball team.

## Table Tennis

### Ping-Pong Palooza: Adventures at the ATTA Championships

*Sgt Joe Harland*

As a Sergeant serving in the Military Provost Staff Regiment, my experience with the Army Table Tennis Association (ATTA) Training and Championships was truly exceptional. From a day of training to two days of championships, the event was held at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre from February 20th to 23rd 2023, it showcased remarkable talent, camaraderie, and competitive spirit.

#### A Day of Intensive Training; Sharpening Our Blades

The journey commenced with a day to refine our table tennis skills. This one day training session presented an opportunity to improve techniques, acquire strategies and gain insights from experienced coaches. The atmosphere buzzed with enthusiasm as personnel from different units came together to elevate their game. Not only did this training enhance our abilities but it also fostered a sense of unity among all participants. Setting the stage for what lay ahead.

#### Championship Days; Where Titans Clash

The following two days witnessed an awe-inspiring display, at the ATTA Championships. The scale of this event was unparalleled, featuring a lineup of 130 players forming 29 teams. Breaking records. The atmosphere was electric, as members of the military displayed their skills and determination in a thrilling table tennis tournament.

Participating in this championship was an exhilarating experience. Each match presented a challenge, testing our ability to adapt and persevere. It wasn't



**Sgt Sidney, Cpl Bacon, Sgt Harland.**

only about the game; it was also about connecting with other Defence staff; sharing our stories and embracing our shared passion for table tennis. Despite the competition there was a sense of sportsmanship and mutual respect that transcended military unit boundaries.

#### A Gathering of Minds; Building Bonds Beyond the Table

One of the aspects of the ATTA event was getting to interact with individuals from various units, each bringing their own perspectives and experiences to the forefront. The camaraderie extended beyond the sports centre, as players engaged in conversations, shared laughter and formed relationships that undoubtedly endured beyond the tournament.

This event not only showcased talent but also celebrated the larger military

community. As a Sergeant, it was truly inspiring to witness the diversity of skills and unity fostered through our shared love for table tennis.

The ATTA Championships provided a platform, for establishing connections, breaking down barriers and strengthening the bonds that epitomise our shared dedication to defending our nation.

In summary - my experience, with the ATTA Training and Championships was a demonstration of how sports can foster unity, camaraderie, and personal growth within the community. The remarkable turnout, intense competition and enduring friendships formed during this event have left a mark on my journey. As I look back on those days at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre I not only carry the lessons learned on the field but also cherish the invaluable relationships formed on it.



# Regimental News

## 1 MP Bde Pace-Sticking Competition

*by Sgt T James, MPS Regiment, Event Lead*



**SCF Coy Pace-Sticking Team.**



**Spec Ops Pace-Sticking Team – Winning Team.**

On Thursday 22 June 2023, Lt Col M T Fielder RTR (The Commandant MCTC and CO MPS Regt) again kindly allowed the 1MP Bde Pace Stick Competition - Neil Robertson Cup to be held at the MCTC.

2023's Neil Robertson Cup brought a new twist to an already established tradition, with the addition of a few new teams from different paths of life.

The MPS Regiment was privileged to once again host the widely respected and prestigious 1 MP Brigade event, and honoured to have Pro Sergeant Major WO1J Miller AGC (RMP) lead the inspection and conduct the role of judge, after his amazing contribution to the 2022 competition.

As expected, the Provost Sergeant Major arrived with a keen eye and an impartial but stern nature, with an aim to not let any discrepancies in uniform or performance pass his eye. He was impressed with all teams and enjoyed the event.

Alongside the Provost Sergeant Major, was the MPS Regiment's very own WO1 (RSM) D Batterham, and two special guests this year these included the former Deputy Commandant, Maj (Retd) Hutchinson and Mr Iain Robertson, brother of the competition's namesake. All of whom were fully impressed with the turnout and enthusiasm from this year's competitors.

There was a fantastic turnout from all areas of the Brigade, with those from external units, civil servants of the MPS Regt and family members of MoS all greatly received as supporters.



**3 RMP Pace-Sticking Team – Receiving a blessing from Gavin Dickson Scripture Reader.**



**Detention Company Pace-Sticking Team – Runners Up.**



**Announcing the awards - Sgt James T, Mr Iain Robertson, WO1 (RSM) D Batterham .**

It's notable to state that also in attendance was mother nature in her full display. From the start of the competition those competing, and spectators were forced to embrace high levels of heat. However, never too late and in true British fashion, the rain waited to make its appearance during the awards ceremony, perfect timing for all those on parade, however no smiles were hampered.

## Teams Overview

### SCF Company – MPS Regt

Being drawn first can be a dreaded experience for some, especially if you're a team full of novices. But neither of these things hampered the SCF Coy, who were a team made of detachments spread across the country and restricted in their time to practice together. It wouldn't show, but the team only arrived at the MCTC to meet each other and practice for the first time four days before the



**Mr Iain Robertson presenting Runners up award to Sgt K McHenry.**

competition. After a crash course in pace sticking, from Sgt James T (Tom) and their supportive CSM, WO2 Bulivou (Buli), they held their own showing great improvement in a short time and should be most satisfied in their performance.

### Detention Company – MPS Regt

For the first time in the competition's history, Detainees Under Sentence (DUS) competed, an idea brainstormed and pushed by Sgt McHenry (Kev), he trained hard with his team even conducting a full dress rehearsal the day before the competition.

This decision from Sgt McHenry proved worthy, as they performed very well and scored high, they narrowly missed out winning the competition, they were joint 1ST on points missing out in a split decision from the judges.

### Ops/Reserve Company – MPS Regt

Ops/Reserve Company Team were in

very much safe hands this year, our very own Sgt Johnson (Jono) from Reserve Company lead his team, all novices and some never held and arguably resented pace-sticking, however after practice under Jono the team found their flair and should be very happy and proud of their performance.

It was hugely beneficial to hear on completion of the teams performance there was no objection from any members of the team but an interest to compete again in future events.

### Spec Ops

A very strong performance, SPEC Ops arrived a very well-rehearsed team, practicing weeks before the competition, they also visited MCTC the day before the competition for a final run through and to familiarise themselves with the layout.

This proved pivotal on the day of the competition and allowed the Spec Ops team to look well-rehearsed, professional and well synchronised.

Their hard work and dedication were noted on the day, with an impressive performance which paid off, as they won the competition winning on a split decision against a great team.

### HQ Company – MPS Regt

They prepared for the competition well, although hesitant once the team was established, they worked very hard to practise individually and as a team, building up their output ready for the competition and performed very well. HQ Company similar to all other teams





# Regimental News



**Capt (Retd) Geoff McMullan - Regt Secretary - Maj Rob Moffat - Maj (now Captain!) H Hutchinson.**

within this years competition majority built up with novices, Sgt Gurung (Sab) reviewed the sequence and précis, not only competing in pace-sticking for the first time but also drove his team, a most commendable effort.

### 1 RMP

Last year (2022) 1 RMP were unfortunate, narrowly missing out winning the competition by a few points, still fresh in their minds 1 RMP arrived this year to surpass runners up and to win, with the same captain, SSgt Howie, this year he had a team of novices, 1 RMP again arrived well practiced, should be content with their efforts applied throughout the competition.

### 3 RMP

Fully utilising tutoring/practice sessions that ran prior to the competition, they attended MCTC days prior to the competition, they quickly grasped the sequence and refined their skills.

SSgt Carnell (Becks) and her team should be more than happy with their performance, they all preformed very well.

## Summary

On conclusion of the event, awards were presented by Mr Iain Robertson. Firstly, WO2 Morris (Rob) Spec Ops team captain took great pleasure receiving the Competition Shield, making them the first RMP team to win in over 10

years. Secondly, Sgt McHenry (Kev) and his team received runners up award, this as usual, a bittersweet moment and Sgt McHenry was understandably not as pleased coming so close to winning the competition. Once all presentations were awarded it was then time for mass sticks led by Sgt James (Tom) the salute taken by Lt Col MT Fielder CO MPS Regt.

The Neil Robertson Cup 2023 will be known as a year of novices who set the bar high will be greatly welcomed and commended. All who competed should be proud of their performances for an individual and a team effort. A reminder that all standards are welcome, promoting inclusion throughout 1 MP Bde with the intent to promote the love



**Friends Reunited!** On completion of the competition all members were invited into in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where (from left) Cpl Richard James MPS Regt, WO2 Rob Morris Spec Ops Regt and Sgt Tom James MPS Regt were reunited, all having performed a role in the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - AGC Street Lining Contingent.

of pace-sticking to all, and the memory of MPS Regt's own, Neil Robertson.

This leaves great excitement for 2024, bringing interest throughout 1 MP Brigade, not just from serving personnel but also Civil Servants have shown a desire to enter a team for 2024. Mr Iain Robertson stated he very much enjoyed this years pace-sticking competition and looks forward to attending future events, he also hinted a possibility of pace-sticking himself.

Finally this leaves the question, will Spec Ops be able to retain the Neil Robertson Cup, or will there be a new title winner for the Neil Robertson Cup 2024.

## Awards

**Winning Team** – 3 RMP Spec Ops  
**Runners Up** – Detention Company  
**Best Sticker** – DUS Howarth  
**Best Novice** – Sgt Parkinson

## Judges

Pro Sgt Maj WO1 J Miller - AGC (RMP)  
 WO1 (RSM) D Batterham - MPS Regt  
 Sgt T James - MPS Regt

## Team Orbats

### Detention Company

Driver Sgt K McHenry  
 Marker Sgt J Ratukalou  
 No 3 DUS Howarth  
 No 4 DUS Bartram

### Reserve Company/Ops Plt

Driver Sgt P Johnson  
 Marker Sgt J Calver  
 No3 Sgt F Fatiaki  
 No4 Sgt A Alton

### SCF Company

Driver Cpl M Philips  
 Marker Cpl R James  
 No 3 Cpl C Boggs  
 No 4 Cpl C Wilkinson

## HQ Company

Driver Sgt S Gurung  
 Marker Sgt R McGavin  
 No3 Sgt S Gurung 750  
 No4 Sgt C Uda

## 1 RMP

Driver – Sgt J Howie  
 Marker – Sgt N Franlykin  
 No 3 - Cpl R Macpherson  
 No 4 – LCpl J McHahon

## 3 RMP

Driver – SSgt R Carnell  
 Marker – Sgt Parkinson  
 No 3 – Cpl E Amindulla  
 No 4 – Cpl R Whittingham

## Spec Ops Regt

Driver – WO2 R Morris  
 Marker – Sgt D Cheetham  
 No 3 Cpl M Holt  
 No 4 Cpl H Benfield



# Regimental News

## MPS Regiment Remembrance Service



The Military Provost Staff Regiment held a poignant service of Remembrance on Friday 10th November. The service of Remembrance was conducted by Padre Wilson and a Poppy Wreath was laid on behalf of the Military Provost Staff Regiment, by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col M Fielder. The Regimental Secretary laid a wreath on behalf of the Association.

Serving members of the Military Provost Staff Regiment, Detainees and civilian staff were amongst those present.

A special mention to the Detainee who piped before, and during the service, it was an incredibly fitting tribute to the fallen.

### Provost Remembrance



On Saturday 11th November the Provost Remembrance Service was attended by a contingent of serving members of the MPS Regiment and Veterans. As ever, it is a very poignant service. Poppy Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Military Provost Staff Regiment and Association, by the Commanding Officer and Regimental Secretary respectively. Afterwards, attendees went to the Westminster Arms, and some even managed to find a few local hostelrys prior to the event!



## MPS Regiment Cenotaph Contingent



I had the great privilege of being the lead for the MPS Contingent gathering at Horse Guards Parade London in readiness to form up for the Service of Remembrance led by His Majesty King Charles III.

Followed by the annual march past the the Nations Memorial the Cenotaph along with several thousand veterans to lay the new badged MPS wreath at the

Nations Chief National War Memorial.

The MPS received 15 places, the security was especially high last year and that coupled with travel issues and last minute work commitments meant that our numbers fell on the day.

I was please to see one of the last Master Chef's to serve at the MCTC prior to contract catering, ex WO2 Selwyn Channon parading and marching with

the MPS and looking as well as ever.

Ex Sgt Mal Carlton ex MPSC popped along to say hello and will be joining us this year.

It is always an incredible experience and something I look forward to every year not only honouring the Nation's fallen, but in doing so bring the MPS Regiment 'Front and Centre' in front of the Nation.



# Regimental News

## Bula Festival UK 2023

by Sgt Fatiaki and Cpl Suluma



In August 2023 a Team from the MCTC were part of the Annual UK 'Bula' Festival at Queen's Parade, Aldershot Garrison. The three-day event, hosted by the Fiji Support Network (FSN), an employee network within Defence, attracted more than 5000 people.

The aim of the event was to promote Diversity and Inclusivity through cultural exposition whilst celebrating Fijians contribution to Defence. This was an opportunity to enhance relationships with the non-military community: to share and learn from each other, and

where possible, exploit opportunities for growth.

Success was achieved at the event with the involvement of other Defence Networks where they showcased other cultures and traditions through art. Charity organisations such as the Royal British Legion provided valuable information from their Information stalls. The organisers were grateful with the involvement of the Military Provost Staff (MPS) Regiment, the Army Engagement Team, the Army Office Recruiting Team, and other Services

Recruiting Teams who helped promote Defence's Diversity and Inclusion in Defence.

The MPS team involved in the BulaFest 23 were Sgts Fatiaki, Lawa, and Corporal's Nuku, Cpl Uluilakeba, Tuca, Suluma and Rainima. Each member was tasked to advice on the role of the MPS Regt and advice on custodial matters. The MPS Team was visited by the Army General staff showing his gratitude and appreciation to everyone in attendance. Cpl Nuku wore a 'Bula' Shirt as a Fiji Support Network representative and



Col Rainima receiving the trophy...Cpl Tuca kneeling fourth to his right.





took on the role of greeting the Guest of Honour. Cpl Rainima and Cp Tuca took the opportunity to play rugby for their Fiji District Team whilst supporting the MPS Recruitment Team.

Overall, a successful event with the support of the families who were also in attendance.

The recruitment was not in vain as we saw the fruit of our labour having three Fijian soldiers from the Royal Welsh conduct their Walk-In-Life at MCTC in October 2023.



## Inspirational visit to National Army Museum

On Tuesday 9 May 2023 the MPS Regt officers and civil servant cohorts came together to visit the National Army Museum (NAM) in Chelsea. The purpose of the visit was to discuss new ways of working that could improve the lived experience within the MPS Regt.

Removing ourselves from Colchester to the NAM, we were able to take inspiration from the Army's rich history of leadership (both the successful and the quirky) allowing us to listen to and consider new unanticipated ideas. Inspirational historical figures such as Sir John Moore reminded us how the value of moral courage and an ability to appropriately challenge are not new concepts.

Rather they are characteristics shown by some of the best of the Army throughout its history. Surprisingly Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson albeit being a Royal Naval Officer found his leadership style (in particular his ability to encourage and solicit advice from his subordinates) referenced many times within the NAM. We have followed



these historical examples with our own thinking and are introducing our own contemporary alternatives.

Firstly, we have reinvigorated Unit Change Agents and an Empowerment Council to overcome Group-Think. This will enable a process of continual refinement that can positively influence people and procedures at any level. Additionally trust and confidence in the

chain of command remains paramount given the unique authority held by members of the MPS Regt. Therefore, the unit will be undergoing an ambitious campaign of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) using both invited speakers, visits and exercises to set the conditions of regimental personnel to always feel confident to do the right thing.



# Regimental News

## Guinness World Record attempt - Most Countries Visited on Foot in a Week

There are two types of people in the world... 'those that watch' and 'those that do'. Most people in the British Armed Forces fit comfortably in the 'those that do' category, none more so than Sgts Damian Isaac, 39; Simon Wright, 39 and Kelson St Rose, 47 of the Military Provost Staff (MPS) Regt who recently pushed themselves by walking nearly 240 miles, in a week in the hope of achieving a Guinness World Record and simultaneously raising money for the Elliot project, a mental health charity that provides mental health first aid training free of charge to businesses and organisations.

Event organiser, Damian Isaac has always been keen to achieve a Guinness World Record and preferred to achieve the accolade by performing an arduous task opposed to something quirky. With full support from the MPS Regt's Officer Commanding, Lt Col Mike Fielder, the team were allowed the time away from duty to complete the event and over the course of a year transport, sponsors, routes and accommodation were planned, incidentally the event was not paid for by the Army, instead it was funded with personal contributions from the three Sgts and 2 support crew, a whopping donation from the MPS Regiment Association as well and other organisations.



### Start.

After consultation with Guinness World Records, it was confirmed that there was no current record for Most Countries Visited by Foot in a Week, and so after some research, a route was planned from Bosnia & Herzegovina due north through Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria finishing in Slovakia.

The team, along with their support crew Sgt Andrew Blewden & Cpl Chris Booth also of the MPS Regt, left the comforts of Colchester early 23 Sep and travelled by motorhome to the commence the first leg of the

task the following day, setting off in an unfavourably wet and soggy day in the small border town of Kostajnica, Bosnia and Herzegovina 1230 Sunday 24 Sep.

The team carried on and thankfully, the weather for the second day was near perfect walking conditions; a gentle breeze and overcast however, for the next few days the weather was so hot, the team decided to take a siesta during the height of the sunshine and heat, opting to make up the rest of the miles at night in cooler temperatures.

On the last day, after walking nearly

**From left: 10km to Austria....the Austrian border....stopped by the Hungarian police....foot admin!.....night walk.**







**The whole team.**

190 miles the team had an almighty push for the finish line which meant they had to walk over 53 miles in 28 hours. Starting the final leg literally hundreds of yards inside the Austrian border, the team walked through the night, back into Hungary and on to Slovenia, crossing the Hungary/Slovakia border at the unique point where Austria, Hungary and Slovakia share their border, stopping for a quick photo opportunity and time check then continuing on for the road border

crossing point where their support crew were waiting for them for the last time and the challenge ended.

Throughout the task, Sgt Isaac would adjust the route in favour of relief, terrain and surface which helped the team stay on track, Sgt Wright would log the team's progress which would later be used as evidence for the Guinness World Records HQ and Sgt St Rose would act as official group photographer which

would also act as evidence for the World Records organisation. All the while, the team were met approximately every 10 miles with refreshments, food and blister clinic from their support crew.

Sgt 'Shiner' Wright, said "Without a doubt, this was the hardest thing I have ever done. I've enjoyed the usual walks & hikes that I've been on throughout my military career around Dartmoor and



# Regimental News

Brecon and in my personal time I've been up to the Lake District and I've even been lucky enough to trek Torres del Paine national park whilst in Chile but there was little that could prepare me physically for this task. As a husband and father with a busy domestic life it was hard to get the miles in preparation. Sgt Isaac added "We met up as often as we could for group walks and conducted a lot of individual training; walking to and from work the long and walking instead of going to the gym for circuit training".

During the task, the team explained what they had struggled with the most, for Sgt St Rose, it was the fact that he couldn't run the length of the challenge... maybe next year he will set the new world record?

If you would like to donate to the Elliot Project or see how the charity can help your team or organisation by providing free mental health first aid courses, please get in touch: The Elliot Project. The Military Provost Regiment is the world's only specific regiment designed to hold captured persons at times of conflict and rehabilitate offenders in UK armed forces at their base in Colchester, Essex.



GWR finish.

## First Class result for the MPS Regiment

by Sgt Sabin Gurung

Wednesday 20 July 2022, A triumphant milestone in my life.

I never thought this day would come. It was a big challenge to pursue my academic studies while concurrently serving full-time in the military. I always wanted to resume my studies and go to university.

It just so happened that my other two colleagues; Sgt Durga Gurung and Sgt Bhim Limbu were also chasing the same dream. A decision made in the MCTC rest room, while sipping a cup of coffee, embarked the three of us on a journey to pursue our Business Management Degrees at Stafford University.

The academic teaching and learning approaches were drastically different to my previous education in Nepal 20 years ago. Initially, the experience was emotional and overwhelming, but as I gained a better understanding of the terminologies and processes, everything began to fall into place. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me and I was determined to make it count. The time and effort it required was extensive



Sgt Sabin Gurung, Sgt Durga Gurung and Sgt Bhim Limbu.

but rewarding. I must thank my family, friends, and colleagues for it was only possible due to their unwavering support.

It is with great accomplishment and pride, that us three members of the MPS Regiment all achieved a First Class Degree in Business Management. All those tedious night studies, endless library visits and numerous assignments now feel worthwhile. The whole

experience has provided me with an enhanced knowledge and authority, offering me a fresh perspective into the corporate world. As stated by Sir Francis Bacon... 'Knowledge is Power'.

I am delighted to be able to share by experience and hopefully inspire and assist many other colleagues to pursue their studies and unleash their full potential.



## Exercise Cambrian Patrol 23

by Cpls Cheetham and Rainma, SCF Scotland



The annual Ex Cambrian Patrol that took place from 6-15 October is a patrolling exercise in the Brecon Beacons and is open to all Tri-Services and International Armed Forces. Cambrian Patrol has, over the years, earned a world class reputation due to the nature of the exercise and the arduous terrain that Brecon has to offer, and this year was no different.

On arrival at Sennybridge, the weather was no different to the last time I was there, lots of rain and very windy. Once we had got the accommodation sorted, we had a brief later that night about how the competition would work.

MPS Regiment and 1 Ranger teamed up and tasked with constructing two Section Attack Lanes (Green Lane had WO2 Bulivou (DS), Sgt Hobson and Cpl Rainima and the Blue Lane had SSgt Ward (DS), Sgt Lawa and Cpl Cheetham).

All hands to the pump were required during the Build-Phase which involved a lot of sandbagging and heavy lifting (railway sleepers) in order to build the two enemy positions ready for the Ex-phase. Throughout the week, patrols were arriving ready for the competition to start.

The scenario for the Lanes were simple (on paper at least but if you were part of the patrol, you might have thought differently). The patrol commander would be briefed and from there a plan would be put in place on how they would tackle the task at hand (each lane had a

high value target CPER). The sound of the GPMG would bellow through the Brecon night and the swoosh of a L24 that light up the night sky, (this was not the case with some of the foreign forces as they had night sights). We knew that the task had started.

Time allocated for the task was 45 minutes. Some patrols were quicker than others, but each patrol were slick at conducting the drills. Once the second enemy position was cleared the CPERS would appear and shout "Surrender! Surrender! From there, the Patrol Commander had to control the situation by following the 5 S's which are Safety,

Search, Secure, Segregate and Safeguard (PRIME). The DS on each lane would be observing how each patrol carried out each drill and at the end would give a score for how each patrol had performed overall on the CPERS drill.

As the competition went on, it was interesting to see from our point of view how different nations conducted the handling of CPERS whether it be having a firm hand at the initial point of capture all the way through to the evacuation point, every team managed to conduct all the 5 S's thoroughly and always treat each CPER humanely which was really good to see.



# Regimental News

## The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



**Sgt Isaac, Sgt McHenry, Sgt Struczynski and Cpl Uluilakeba.**

On 6 May 2023 the nation witnessed the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, 70 years after the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Sgt Isaac, Sgt McHenry, Sgt Struczynski and Cpl Uluilakeba were chosen to represent the MPS Regiment and joined 20 other personnel from across the AGC. This was a unique opportunity for those representing the MPS Regiment to take part in, a truly once in a lifetime opportunity, especially to be part of the marching contingent for His Majesty's Coronation.

It was fast paced from the start to get ready for this prestigious event, from the moment everyone arrived in Worthy Down, all those detailed for the marching contingent were issued all the necessary ceremonial kit and equipment and led straight into a drill practice on day

one. This is where those from the MPS Regiment shone above the rest of the AGC contingent, with a high standard of drill. Even the Guards Drill Instructors, whose job was to get over 6000 troops ready for the Coronation were impressed with the standard.

After 2 days in Worthy Down the team moved to Pirbright camp, where further preparations took place with other Regiments from the British Army and Commonwealth units. With drill practice taking place on both the drill square at Pirbright and Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

After hours upon hours of drill practice and even more time spent on polishing boots, all marching contingents had a rehearsal at RAF Odiham with all the procession groups. This was the first time anyone had a practiced with

all moving parts; as up until this point, most of the training had been conducted in their own procession groups. This was soon followed up by night rehearsal in London, such an amazing experience marching through London at night, past all the iconic landmarks, down The Mall and into Buckingham Palace Garden.

After everyone's first hard-earned day off in over a week, one last drill practice was conducted at RMAS, to iron out the finer details and ensure everyone was finally ready to take part in the biggest military parade this country has seen since 1953.

### Individual Experiences

#### Sgt Isaac – Detention Company

Firstly, it was a real honour to be part of His Majesty's Coronation and to represent the MPS Regiment, it was





**Practice day at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.**

a unique experience and something I will never forget. Our contingent was made up by all seven different cap badges which make up the AGC and to have people like Sgt Struczynski and Sgt Bunce bringing their ceremonial experience was invaluable.

Nothing in the last two weeks could top the Coronation, the feeling of marching down The Mall and performing a drill movement which was designed just for the Coronation (12's into 6's) which enabled everyone to march into Buckingham Palace.

Another highlight of the past two weeks had to be the night rehearsal; this was the point where it hit home just how big the event was going to be. To see all the drill movements, we had been practising finally come together, along with the march through to Buckingham Palace Garden at night was a surreal moment.

#### **Cpl Uluilakeba – SCF South**

As plans for the King's coronation initiated since the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, I made a promise to myself that I will volunteer and hopefully be selected and gain a place on the MPS Regiment detachment to the AGC Corps contingent. The Royal Family has always been at the heart of every Fijian, given that they played a major role in building and modernising Fiji. I had the opportunity to speak to King Charles three times before during my time in service and HM also spoke to my Mum when she visited me in 2011.

The two weeks building up to the Coronation had been hectic, with early mornings and late nights making sure that my kit was up to standard and that I was in time on parade ready for drill



**MPS Regiment staff doing the Regiment proud.**



# Regimental News



Buckingham Palace garden – three cheers for the King.



AGC Marching Contingent.





**Cpl Uluilakeba and his uncle (Fijian Navy) met at a full rehearsal.**

practice and rehearsals every single day.

On coronation day, we had to be up early and ready to catch the bus to Farnborough and then train into London Waterloo. It was exciting knowing that this opportunity will not come around again after a very long time and it was a once in a lifetime one. From Waterloo to the end of coronation formalities at Buckingham Palace Gardens, I gave my all for King and country. A



**Formed up at Wellington Barracks ready to start the night rehearsal.**

great opportunity and one of the best highlights of my military career.

#### **Sgt Struczynski – Receptions and Security**

Being part of the Kings Coronation took me back to my roots of when I first joined the Grenadier Guards in 2000 prior to transferring into the MPS Regiment in 2014. I had forgotten how much hard work and effort is needed to be put into any parade, let alone a parade as significant as the Coronation of King Charles III. It was hard graft with many early mornings starts traveling to RMAS every day to practice the sequence of the parade and being generally exhausted by the end of the day. I particularly enjoyed helping the other members of the AGC, getting their kit up to the required standard, passing on my tips and tricks I'd learned over the years as a 'Grenadier'.

It was amazing to see so many members of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth and UK overseas territories in all their different uniforms, most had never been to the UK before, and this was their first visit. On the day, the buzz and energy coming from the crowds cheering us on as we marched down The Mall to Buckingham Palace was amazing and electrifying. This parade was truly a once in a lifetime momentous event, and with being only one of four representing the MPS Regiment, it filled me with enormous pride and honour to participate in this historic event. This was one of my last commitments I will do as I come to the end of a full career in the Army, so it seems only fitting that my career ends where it all started for me on parade in the heart of London in front of the New King and Queen with the rest of the Royal Family.



**AGC Marching Contingent during the Night Rehearsal.**



# Regimental News

## Mission Motorsport Goodwood Company Day



On 21 June, 2023 MCTC staff and detainees visited Goodwood Motor Circuit to attend the Meyrick Company Day organised by Mission Motorsport.

Mission Motorsport provide automotive and motorsport opportunities to aid recovery and rehabilitation for those with a connection to the Armed Forces.

The scorching hot day involved; hot laps in fast cars, Spitfire tours & drifting on the skid pan. The event also provided opportunities for networking with industry for those leaving the forces.

*Editors note: My thanks to Capt Leo for allowing me to attend the event, I have a mild interest in cars and motor*

*racing, some may say obsessive!*

*My one passenger ride, in an Aston Martin V8, was accompanied by the driver being overtaken by a Porsche 911 GT3 RS being driven at 10 tenths, to which my driver explained his lack of enthusiasm for all things Porsche, he then asked me what sort of car I had, the answer stumped him!*





# Operation INTERFLEX

*By Sgt Andrew, Support Company*



For the majority of 2023, I have deployed as the lead instructor for Op INTERFLEX. Delivering Prisoner of War (PW) Handling (Point of Capture) to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF). The training is derived from UK Armed Forces best practise.

To effectively maintain the training objectives, the UAF have to understand how to properly conduct PW handling at the Point of Capture including:

- Define the PW Point of Capture process;

- Conduct a detailed person search;
- Secure Intelligence;
- Safeguard of PW.

The basic principles of the Geneva Conventions III, additional protocols, and International Law are discussed. This lays down the minimum standards of treatment that are required when handling PW and the strategic impact it will have on the success of the mission if PW are mistreated or subjected to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment.

I and MPS Regt staff from the

Military Corrective Training Centre have delivered training in Okehampton, Stanta, Lydd and occasionally Longmoor and Knook camp.

Whereas staff from Service Custody Facilities have delivered training at Warcop and Waithgill.

On a whole, I, and the other MPS Regt Staff who have delivered training, have found the UAF soldiers to be both engaging and dedicated to developing their skills. It has been a genuine pleasure to support them.





# Regimental News



## National Arboretum AGC Parade

*by Sgt James*



The National Memorial Arboretum AGC parade commenced 11 Jul 2023. There was a very impressive attendance from all cap badges overall including seven MPS Regt members. This is a great opportunity for everyone to honour the men and women of AGC, past and present, who have served and who have lost their lives.

The morning was nice although spots of rain here and there. All staff met at the little café to warm up prior to the parade beginning which, was only 200m away. The AGC's Corps RSM led the parade to the AGC Memorial stand.

It has a beautiful landscape with trees surrounding the Memorial and seating area, it was also nice to see some family members of fallen AGC soldiers in attendance.

The Memorial service was 45 minutes long, with speeches read by some of the family members





and appointed AGC personnel. Poppies and wreaths were then laid on the memorial by all branches, including the MPS Regt and Association, in respect of fallen soldiers.

After the service concluded we had time to look at the memorial to the fallen, it is a very moving and poignant reminder of past, and recent conflicts. I personally felt very privileged to be given the opportunity to attend the memorial service.

I have personally lost friends on operations, so to have somewhere not only for me but others to pay our respects to the heroic men and women that paid the ultimate price fighting for their country is very special indeed.



## Court Martial: Soldiers Behind Bars - Behind the Camera

*by Capt Leo Westland*

This year, the MPS welcomed EMPORIUM Productions to film an access all areas documentary for Channel 5.

In January 2023, a camera crew arrived at the MCTC to begin filming MPS staff and detainees.

The aim was to produce a three-part series documenting the experience and journey of Soldiers, Sailors and Aviators as they transit through the Service Justice System. The documentary focused mostly on the unique environment of a military detention establishment, filming also included the RMP policing Colchester and the Bulford Court Martial Centre.

The main director and main cameraman, Ruben, had previously worked on NETFLIX's 'The World's Toughest Prisons'. He was therefore used to dangerous prisoners in chaotic jails, however, filming at the MCTC presented him with different challenges.

Filming started at a slow pace and the film crew had to work very hard to establish the detainee's trust; a large proportion of the detainees were apprehensive about appearing on national TV.

The tempo of filming picked up in spring when a collection of detainees consented to share their experiences with the cameras. Trust was clearly gained after the camera crew fully embedded themselves into some military training, completing a full 16-week training cycle with A Company, including attending PT and field exercises.

The production was successful in



getting a wide range of detainees, who had committed a variety of offences, to engage with the filming; some remorseful and looking forward to continuing with a military career, others less so.

The camera crew were also enthusiastic about filming MPS staff and understand their motivation for choosing to become custodian specialists within the British Army.

The documentary began to wrap up in the summer and finished on a high, with the Neil Robertson Cup Pace Sticking competition comprising the final day of shooting. Soon after, a select few staff were able to view a 'rough cut' of the episodes prior to them going live on Channel 5. Apprehensive of how the MPS would be portrayed on national TV, nerves were settled when the MCTC was shown to be a professional and holistic rehabilitation detention centre.

Several rounds of news and media interviews followed which helped to promote the documentary. There was interest from local and national newspapers and radio channels. The episodes aired with positive reviews and high viewership numbers. Internally, Army Media was pleased with the style and content portrayed.

The filming experience for the MPS staff allowed for some reflection on how the MCTC business was best run. MPS staff often deal with detainees who present mid-crisis and who require a high level of tolerance, but also encouragement. The documentary put the spotlight on some of the MCTC's best staff members who utilised the shared military bond between detainees and themselves, and it let their compassion and empathy shine.

Thank you to all who contributed.

# Regimental News

## Provost Marshal (Army) presents medals and commendations at MCTC Colchester



**Sarah Brown, Provost Marshal (Army)'s Commendation for services to vocational and academic education for detainees at MCTC.**

**SSgt Gareth Leyland, LS&GC (left), Sgt Robert Parsons, LS&GC (centre), SSgt James White, LS&GC (right).**

Brigadier V Buck Provost Marshal (Army) visited the Military Provost Staff Regiment at the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester.

Regiment before handing over her role as PM(A), she had an opportunity to thank the MPS for their work during her tenure.

give commendations to members of the Civil Service staff. She also spoke to the cameras for an upcoming documentary on the MPS and wider Service Justice System.

During her farewell visit to the

She used the visit to award Long Service and Good Conduct medals and



**Brig Buck addressing MPS staff, while filming conducted for an upcoming documentary.**



## NATO Military Police Working Dogs Forum March 2023

by Sgt Hamish Newbatt

This was the first forum that has ever taken place with dog handlers, trainers and people in charge of Military Working Dogs (MWD) within NATO. It was a privilege to be invited to this event as the only drug dog handler within the 1 MP Brigade, and indeed, the British Army. The intention surrounding the forum was to discuss and raise further awareness of the significances of the MWDs and their handlers during training, preparation and multinational deployment.

The forum took place in the city of Bydgoszcz, Poland during March 2023. After arriving in the evening, I settled in before I spent the following day touring around the local city, trying out all the local coffee shops. The event started that evening with a social gathering where I got to meet all of the other participants for the first time.

The following day the forum started with a brief by the Director of NATO Military Police Centre of Excellence, Colonel Miroslaw Labecki, informing us of what would be discussed in the days to come. (Pic 1 Sgt Newbatt name card)

After this each country started to give their national presentation on what the capabilities, structure, and operations of their MWD units were. This was interesting to hear about Germany's breeding programme and



how successful it was. I delivered my presentation about the unique role we do and explained how Sefer was the only Drug Detection dog within the British Army, not only carrying out search tasks at the MCTC but working with various external agencies such as the RMP and Essex Police to name a few. (Pic 2 Sgt Newbatt presentation)

During the forum we had briefs which included changes to MWD policy, veterinary care, licencing, breeding, dog screening and search tasks. It was interesting to understand how each country has their own methods of dog training and purchasing. The forum was a relaxed event, and we were all invited to share our experiences either operational or training with MWD.

Upon conclusion of the forum, on the Wednesday evening, we had a guided tour around the local town learning about the history of Bydgoszcz and the role it played during the second world war. (Pic 3 All attendees of event)

Overall, the forum was a success, and we hope to arrange again soon. I have made 2 contacts in Spain and Finland with whom I have remained in contact with as I write this. One thing I will be taking away with me was, on hearing about how the Netherlands using sticky labels soaked within drug samples, then applied to luggage tags to train the dog on small amounts of drug traces when searching airport baggage carousels. This is something I could implement at the MCTC when conducting training on searching bags/kit. As always, I would like to say thank you to the dog section at RAF Brize Norton for looking after Sefer during my time away.



# SCF North

*Cpl Bacon, AGC(MPS)*



Another busy year for SCF North completing day-to-day routine and other MPS commitments such as Op INTERFLEX and Op CARRIDGE to fundraisers for Charity, representing at British/Corps/Army level sports and Team Cohesion Days.

## **Sgt Neil Robertson Cup**

This year I and Cpl Boggs were selected alongside Cpls Phillips and James to represent SCF Company in Sgt Neil Robertson Cup, an annual Pace Sticking Competition. The event takes place once a year in memory of a former member of the MPS Regiment.

This year's competition was well planned by Sgt Tom James. Although none of us had any previous experience we were determined to do our best. After the initial practice we realised that it would be a challenge but we were adamant that we would represent SCF Company well.

## *Sgt Kyme Notes*

I arrived at SCF North in November 2022. On arrival to SCF North it was evident they were a well-established team. I settled into the role of 2IC quickly with the staff helping me get the lay of the land. It was quiet at SCF North in November this gave the team opportunity to recuperate from their busy year. The first thing that struck me about SCF North was the small size of the facility but how well the team navigated this challenge and still provided quality custodial outputs.

In the new year, I began to understand the workload that SCF North was responsible for. Our focus as a facility is always to provide the best service to the Military Court Service in Catterick and to provide short notice response to 150 Provost Company / SCDU and lastly to support local units within the Garrison area and sometimes beyond.

On occasions we must move with the detainees and the escort party from the

unit to MCTC which provides unique challenges to the facility. Staff have been posed with many challenging detainees within this last year and managed to successfully navigate them.

We pass on our thanks to SSgt Baxter as our main lead departs his current role as IC in November 2023, we all wish him the best in his new role as SFC Scotland IC. We look forward to welcoming back SSgt Bielefelo to SCF North as the new IC in November 2023, noting he was previously 2IC so knows the facility well so should settle into routine quickly. We all look forward to what 2024 has in store for our facility.

Another highlight and well done. On Sun 15 Oct 23, Cpl Boggs and Cpl Panton took on 26.2 miles at the 10th Anniversary of the Yorkshire Marathon.

Both ran this on behalf of the "Veterans Foundation" Charity. We both managed to complete the run unscathed and raised a good amount of money for the Charity.





# SCF South

Since SCF South's last submission, productivity has drastically increased; SCF South continues to be pivotal in providing vital contributions to the development, progression, and the much-needed support to the Service Justice System (SJS), Military Court Service (MCS), RMP and local Units.

It remains the busiest SCF and team South without a doubt, continue to do well in all manner of Regimental trawls namely Op INTERFLEX, Op CARRIAGE and Op VENTUS, whilst also volunteering at any given opportunity for the betterment of the Regiment.

With many detainee admissions and other operational commitments, staff at South have been kept on their toes; remaining operationally focused to grow in line with MCTC's mission towards Defence. We maintain a constant flow of detainees through the doors and continue to focus our attention on the rehabilitation of these service personnel. .

## Op CARRIAGE

All the while delivering support to the SJS, MCS, RMP and local units, specifically within the detention and custody space, leads team South to be the



SCF South Service Custody Staff-Team South.





# SCF South



flagship vehicle for the new established OPERATION CARRIAGE protocols; primarily focused on conducting high profile transfers from the MCS to MCTC and even direct to HMP.

Conducting each task with ease and ensuring the complete management and oversight of all logistical requirements are maintained at each stage. This has been yet another successful space for team South, where each time they have stepped up to deliver in spades; even though they have been operating under 'on times' critical work force constraints, they have never faltered in ensuring each transfer has been completed diligently and safely.

## Sports

Not only have staff continued to develop their custodial knowledge and champion the MPS Regt cap badge, but we have also made time for our own chosen sports. SSgt Mannion-Williams



**Team South winning at footgolf.**



**Sgt Prophet conducting archery training.**



**Team South bonding on the hills.**



continues to represent the MPS Regt at both Army and UKAF level, more recently being scouted to represent her home nation of Wales at next year's graded International Tournament, where she will compete against England, Scotland, and NI. Cpl Tuca represented the MPS Regt team in the IMP Bde Sevens Rugby competition in which the team valiantly came runners up.

Sgt Prophet utilises his archery skills and strives to be part of the Army team. Cpl Graham is working hard in representing the MPS Regt for his first time in boxing.

Cpl Tittle showed off his skills and drills at Tidworth/Bulford Garrison's cricke, whilst Cpl Uluilakeba has been continuously training and hoping to be part of the MPS Regiment's indoor rowing team to compete at the Army competition in October.

### Team Cohesion

Whilst maintaining high admission rates, supporting Ops and Regimental trawls, staff at team South have been encouraged to take every opportunity to be involved in team cohesion days, either that be sport or a good ole tab across the training area or even 'Minute to Win it' style strategic games evening.

Earlier this year, Cpl Tuca organised a team cohesion barbecue, which gave the facility a chance to finally get together socially outside of work; the highlight of the day was when staff got the chance to taste some delicious Fijian cuisine and the infamous grog.

In April, Cpl Tittle organised a friendly Foot-Golf tournament, where the competitive side of the team clearly shone through, ending in the tournament being played twice to make extra certain the right person came out on top. Not only do we partake in the quarterly events, but Team South also 'try' and get together most Fridays, whether that be a coffee and a catch up or a brisk walk across the range road.

With the recent push out of the mighty MyZone HR device, with the 'Never Train Alone' ethos; saw individuals take to conducting physical activity like never seen before.

Although SSgt M-W was beaten once by Cpl Uluilakeba within the SCF South monthly challenges, she continues to head up the leaderboard, amongst her small team, with others still working hard trying to catch her.

Sgt Prophet took the lead of the final Team Cohesion event of this year,



**Team South at The Brig Versus Challenge.**



**Team IC taking the win for The Looters.**



**Cpl Uluilakeba trying his hardest to get his MEPs.**

testing our wits at the Live Escape Room 'Brig Versus Challenge'. Team South, for once, was divided into two teams, one captained by the IC and the other by the 2IC; may the best 'man or woman' win. Team IC were now known to be 'The Looters' and Team 2IC were called 'The Pirates'. The Pirates were given new names by the Games Master; which turned out to be very apt indeed: Sgt Prophet - Gobby; Cpl Uluilakeba - Gorgeous; Cpl Nuku - Fingers; Cpl Graham - Brains.

Whilst being locked in individual brigs they had to communicate to get clues to solve puzzles to escape and try and get their treasure before the Looters...with the Looters frantically trying to solve puzzles between three



# SCF South

chests to secure the treasures before the Pirates got hold of them.

Ever humble in triumph, Team IC stood tall and proud in their win; congratulating the Team 2IC for their valiant efforts, if only Gobby managed to secure the last lock in time he would have sailed to victory: if you live by the sword, you die by the sword; better luck next time. After the event, all staff met up for some much-needed refreshments which were followed by farewell presentations.

## Farewells/Welcomes

This year we say farewell to Cpl's Graham, Nuku and Uluilakeba who have been pre-selected for promotion and have been appointed roles at Support Company and Detention Company respectively. We also saw the loss of Cpl Compton who decided to transfer back to his previous Regt; however due to his work and determination whilst being MPS, saw him also promoted and team South wishes him well for the future.

SCF South are also lucky enough to welcome four new arrivals to the squad;



**Team South presents farewell gifts for promotion.**

Cpls H Gurung, J Gurung, A Pun and N Rana, who have recently been successful in the completion of the Detention

Specialist Course. Welcome to the Team, and we look forward to working with you in the future.



**Team South welcomes new arrivals upon completion of DSC 241.**



# SCF Midlands and Wales

SCF Midlands and Wales deliver detention capability to the Service Police and offer specialist advice to unit commanders and unit staff support assistants.

We remain operationally focused to grow and develop our custodial skills and knowledge. We have benefited from a very successful recruiting drive, and this saw the company have a group of enthusiastic new members join the team. We maintain a flow of detainees through the doors namely DUS, DNUS(CBC) DNUS (CAC) and continue to focus our attention on the rehabilitation of these servicemen and woman.

The team here at SCF Midlands and Wales focus on training during quieter periods and continue to test and adjust our operational commitments such as providing training to Ukrainian Army soldiers on OPERATION INTERFLEX. Not only have staff continued to develop their custodial knowledge they have also made time for their own chosen sport and charity events which Corporals, Rai, Carr, James and Price have took



**Members of the MPS Regt finishing the AGC Triple Crown - Capt Westland, Cpl Yonzon, Cpl Rai, Cpl Subba.**

part in. They have also made time to strengthen the bond within the team with team days out.

#### **Farewells**

SCF Midlands and Wales said goodbye to, Cpl Maher and Cpl James who will be posted back to MCTC on promotion.

#### **Welcomes**

We welcomed Cpl Southey to the team. He arrived at the facility with a boost of enthusiasm and brings to the table unique skills and experiences from his previous units. We look forward to what we can achieve as a facility and continue to develop.



**Cpl Rai completed the Cannock Chase half marathon.**



**Cpl James, Cpl Price and Cpl Newman, Stafford half marathon.**



# SCF Scotland

2023 has been a fantastic year for SCF Scotland. This year members of the facility have been involved in OPERATION INTERFLEX covering WATHGILL and WARCOP training areas providing vital training to the Ukranian Armed Forces (UAF) on 'Prisoner of War' Point of Capture lesson. Corporals', Rainima and Cheetham were involved in Cambrian Patrol which proved to be a tough time with Cpl Cheetham using the dreaded word OXO! Both said it was a great experience and gained lots of valuable training for future events.

Corporal's Dennis, Duncan and Cheetham all passed their Level 3 Custody apprenticeships which has set them up with good knowledge going forward in their careers within the MPS Regiment and a civilian recognised qualification.

This year Corporal Duncan organised a families day which proved to be a hit and a great opportunity to meet all the families, we had a BBQ and kids entertainment and games. Corporal Yonzon has clearly drilled into his daughter the art of winning, a strong effort was displayed in the kid's games!

Corporal Dennis organised a trip to Game of Throwing at Edinburgh's OMNI Centre. This was a fantastic way for members of the detachment to release some frustrations in a safe and controlled environment, throwing a lot of axes and surprisingly all went smooth although SSgt Raines throwing methods were questionable! This was followed up with some mini golf and a group meal.

Sport has been a hit with SCF Scotland again this year with Corporal's Rainima and Suluma participating in



**SSgt Raine representing the Army at National Championships in Tug of War**



**Cpl Rainima representing the AGC in rugby.**



*Cpl Duncan*

**Cpls Duncan, Rainima and Subba, participating in 'Minefield', one of the IC's team building exercises.**



**SCF Scotland enjoying a Team Cohesion Day, axe throwing!**

numerous rugby events representing the MPS Regt, Army and civilian clubs. SSgt Raine has been participating in Tug of War, again representing the Army and England which has been an outstanding year for her and the teams.

Sgt Venters has been busy again this year engaging with the local school and organising a visit to HMS Prince of Wales, a fantastic trip was had by all, more recently the primary year 6 children were learning about world wars and Sgt Venters prepped and taught a lesson on the Army's ration packs. The children all got involved in the cooking and of course tasting of the ration packs,

Now we moved to the end of the year a lot of change is in store for SCF Scotland with SSgt Raine moving on with a well-deserved promotion and we will welcome SSgt Baxter as the new commander of SCF Scotland from SCF North in Catterick. We have also lost Corporals' Yonzon and Subba on promotion to Sgt, who both move on to MCTC. No more Momo's for team Scotland!

SCF Scotland staff are looking forward to the new challenges and what the future brings. As 2023 ends, we look forward to our Staff Christmas function and what 2024 will have in store for the team.



**Cpl Suluma enjoying some food at the SCF Scotland families day.**

# SCF Northern Ireland

In the military sphere, motivation and a keen sense of purpose are the cornerstones of any unit's success. The SCF Northern Ireland team, despite the inherent challenges posed by a quieter operational environment, is a shining testament to what a motivated unit can achieve when its energies are channelled constructively. Under the astute leadership of SSgt Francis McKay, who took the reins earlier this year, the facility has undergone a transformation. With Sgt Christopher Todd, his 2IC, they've steered the SCF NI team towards an intense focus on professional, personal, and educational development.

All staff, such as Cpls Michael Lambdon and Daniel Ross, highlight this shift, having delved into a variety of courses from Mental Health First Aid to Digital Skills, enriching not only themselves but the collective SCF NI team. Their sense of camaraderie and unity is evident in the team-building events led by Cpls Sam Tudor and Aisea Sautu, while their commitment to causes beyond their military duty shines brightly in Sgt Todd's fundraising efforts for Ukraine and Cpl Ross's marathon for McMillan Cancer. Operational readiness is unwavering. Corporal's, despite the low detainee environment, have volunteered for missions like Op WATCHTOWER and Op INTERFLEX. Particularly noteworthy is Corporal Christopher Booth's initiative with the CPERs external training contingent, which was successfully executed with the Rangers Regiment, receiving commendation from their commanders. Further showcasing adaptability and altruism, Corporal Booth recently played an instrumental role in a charity-focused Guinness World Record attempt by members of the MPS Regt, volunteering as a driver and much more in a walk through six countries in the quickest time. His invaluable contributions, spanning from reconnoitring routes and preparing meals to administering a motorhome and providing first aid, not only facilitated the venture but also significantly uplifted morale and ensured the endeavour's notable success in fundraising.

In essence, under the leadership of SSgt McKay, aid of Sgt Todd, and support of all the Corporal's, SCF NI has metamorphosed into a unit that doesn't just await challenges but actively seeks out opportunities for growth and betterment. Their concerted focus on holistic development — be it academic,

charitable, athletic, or professional — reaffirms their dedication to excellence, not just as individuals but as a cohesive and formidable team.

## Team Cohesion Activities

### Crazy Golf

On a sunny morning of 19th April 2023, the team gathered with enthusiasm for a game of Crazy Golf, a brainchild of Corporal Tudor. The course, adorned with its quirky challenges, beckoned. As every member stepped up, one could sense a fierce yet friendly competitive spirit. Whispers of strategies, playful banter, and mutual encouragement set the stage. Corporal Lambdon's masterful putts and surprising strategies made him the day's champion, though the rest of the team gave him a run for his money.

### Bowling Team Cohesion Day

The aromatic scent of polished wood and the distant clatter of pins set the scene on 5th June. With the glimmering King Pin Trophy on the line, each player donned their bowling shoes, their eyes reflecting ambition. SSgt McKay's opening strike set the bar high. Sgt Todd, true to form, demonstrated a balance of technique and raw power, culminating in him being crowned the bowling maestro of the day. Though absent, Corporal's Lambdon and Booth's legendary bowling tales were fondly remembered.

## Overseas Training Assignment in Cyprus

### UoF Training

Cyprus's scorching sun and the refreshing Mediterranean breeze welcomed

Corporal Tudor. Collaborating with Sgt Ward, the duo delivered a top-notch SCP course to an eager Garrison staff. Integrating rigorous Tier one training with the nuanced SPEAR package, their sessions were a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical demonstrations. The course not only expanded the trainees' skill sets but also reaffirmed the importance of continuous learning in military environments.

## Charity Initiative for a Noble Cause

### Fundraising Initiatives for Ukraine

Following the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, Sgt Todd has been at the forefront of charity and fundraising efforts for affected Ukrainian communities, notably those displaced to Northern Ireland. He's taken part in various initiatives, from local fundraising events to helping package humanitarian aid for swift





dispatch to Ukraine.

Moreover, Sgt Todd engaged in the UK's "Homes for Ukraine" programme, providing sanctuary for Ukrainian refugees. His standout achievement has been the creation of a non-profit fundraising project, selling paracord bracelets crafted from Ukrainian materials. This initiative raised about £6000, directly supporting a charity in Uzhhorod for non-lethal assistance to Ukrainian soldiers.

In gratitude for his significant contributions, the Commander-in-Chief of Ukraine's armed forces, General Zaluzhnyi, and a beneficiary battalion gifted Sgt Todd a signed Ukrainian flag, a poignant tribute to his dedication.

**McMillan Cancer Support Coastal Hike (Full Marathon)**

Set against the scenic backdrop of Ballycastle, Corporal Ross tackled a demanding 26-mile hike for McMillan Cancer Support. Having raised £850 for a cause deeply personal to him, he joined over a thousand hopefuls. As dawn broke, he swiftly took the lead, immersing himself in the coastal vistas.

The dynamic of the hike shifted around the 17-mile point, with participants picking up their pace. Despite the day's heat and mounting fatigue, Cpl Ross persevered, completing his journey in 7 hours and 11 minutes, securing an impressive 8th position. His achievements were celebrated with a medal, a refreshing bubbly, and the inspiring strains of Bob Marley's "Don't Worry."

**Exploring New Horizons with Water Sports**

**Paddle Boarding at Bangor Yacht Club**

The NI SCF team dove into a new challenge at Bangor Yacht Club, choosing paddle boarding for both fun and team cohesion. Guided by an experienced



instructor, they learned the basics, from maintaining balance to mastering paddle techniques. The emphasis was not just on boarding; they also practiced rescue drills, highlighting teamwork's essence in every scenario.

The sun shone favourably, making the experience enjoyable, though some of them acquainted themselves more with the water than intended! As the day concluded, their strengthened bonds were evident, and we proudly earned the Level 1 "Ready to Ride Paddle Boarding" qualification. Plans for another aquatic adventure soon bubbled amongst the team.

**Mastering the Art of Archery**

**Army Archery Endeavours**

Sgt Todd has jumped into archery this year – along with Sgt Prophet (SCF South). After completing the Army Archery beginners' course in April, he triumphed in June, securing victory in his category at the Army Archery Queen's Memorial shoot. By August, his commitment led him to achieve a certification as an Archery GB instructor, empowering him to mentor local archery enthusiasts.



In the Archery Inter-service competition, he participated with the Army's for their win against the Navy and RAF. His active participation in local interclub events further highlighted his skill and sportsmanship. As Sgt Todd's passion for archery inspires many, it is noteworthy that Corporal Booth is set to commence the Archery beginners' course in October 2023.





# Reserve Company



**Exercise Iron Guardian, Military Provost Staff Regiment, 2023.**

The Reserve Company ACT ran from 30 September - to 16 October 2023.

Reserve Company moved to ST Martins Plain Camp just outside Folkestone.

The first week we were deployed on exercise, the first few days at a small training area near to Lydden Hill where there are three large disused ammo bunkers.

The company, under the command of Capt Sanderson, were tasked to set up a Temporary Holding Facility (THF). After half a day of planning and setting up barbed wire, the company was ready to accept CPERS as well as providing a guard force and QRF. We soon received CPERS and were able to practise booking in and routine with live CPERS.

Meanwhile enemy forces targeted the THF with mortars and attacked in small groups giving us the opportunity to carry out IDF drills and react to direct attacks on the THF.

The next phase of the exercise saw the company move to the Redoubt at Dymchurch. This is a Napoleonic era fort still run by the MoD, and it is used for Urban CQB training.

After additional training to CQB training on ACT 2022 that was delivered by the PSI, SSgt Gold, the company launched an attack on the fort. After taking control we established another THF within the fort and received some



**A fun day out at an inflatable watersports centre near Folkestone, Kent.**

high value CPERS.

Endex was called after another skirmish with the enemy. The company received very good feedback from two High Value Target CPers, both of whom have extensive operational experience.

Adventure training in the form of water sports was organised by Sergeant Abbott, at a nearby water sports centre. Water sports in October may not be to everyone's taste, wet suits were provided and everyone had an enjoyable time

doing paddle boarding a banana boat type rides and an inflatable assault course. In the evening the company had an enjoyable meal out at a local pub in order to say farewell to the outgoing OC, Major Denman

Week two saw the company using the nearby Lydd and Hythe ranges for three days under the control of the company 2IC, Captain Moran culminating in a mini march and shoot competition.

The cultural day was a visit to the local



by Sgt Steve Finn



Battle of Britain Museum in Hawkinge, which holds a large collection of battle of Britain aircraft followed by a visit and stroll along the white cliffs of Dover.

After completing some revision on DEPRIMER from Sgt Dickinson, the junior ranks designed and planned THF's then presented their plans to the senior

ranks using models.

Overall the camp was very enjoyable and challenging with a good array of soldier first training, shooting and AT.

## MPS Reserve Company's Inspiring Visit to the Battle of Britain Museum Fosters Reflection and Respect

For the members of the MPS Reserve Company, the annual field exercise is an essential part of their training. However, after the completion of their demanding exercise, they were given a well-deserved opportunity to engage in a cultural visit that left a profound impact on their hearts and minds. The MPS Reserve Company had the privilege of visiting the esteemed Battle of Britain Museum in Folkestone, a journey that provided individuals with a chance to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who fought during World War II and develop a deeper respect for the nation's history.

### A Journey into History

The picturesque town of Folkestone played host to the MPS Reserve

Company's cultural visit to the Battle of Britain Museum. Nestled along the Kent coast, the museum stands as a humbling tribute to the brave men and women who risked their lives during the infamous Battle of Britain. From the moment the reservists entered the museum, they were transported back in time to an era that shaped the destiny of their nation.

### Reflecting on Sacrifice

The visit to the Battle of Britain Museum provided a unique context for reservists to reflect on the immense sacrifices made by the RAF during the intense air campaign of 1940. The Museum's comprehensive exhibits showcased the remarkable valour of the pilots who defended Britain's skies against formidable German attacks.

The personal stories, artefacts, and interactive displays offered an immersive experience, evoking a profound sense of admiration for those who fought and perished in the line of duty.

### Developing a Deeper Respect

Stepping into the museum and witnessing the exhibits of original aircraft, memorabilia, and audiovisual presentations, the MPS Reserve Company gained a comprehensive understanding of the crucial role played by the RAF during the Battle of Britain. The sheer scale of the conflict, the human toll, and the unwavering determination of the pilots became vividly apparent, nurturing a newfound respect for the sacrifices made by their predecessors. This deeper appreciation for history,

# Reserve Company



duty, and courage resonated within each member of the reserve company.

### Cultivating Unity and Camaraderie

Beyond the educational and reflective aspects, the visit to the Battle of Britain Museum also served to strengthen the bonds among the members of the MPS Reserve Company. Sharing in this powerful experience fostered a sense of unity and camaraderie. Conversations flowed as individuals explored the museum's exhibits together, engrossed in discussion, and exchanging thoughts

and insights on the exhibits' significance.

### Conclusion

The MPS Reserve Company's visit to the Battle of Britain Museum in Folkestone provided an invaluable opportunity for reflection, respect, and learning. After completing their annual field exercise, this cultural visit allowed reservists to immerse themselves in the heroic tales of those who defended their country during the Battle of Britain. By gaining a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by their predecessors, each member of the

MPS Reserve Company emerged with an enhanced appreciation for their own responsibilities, inspiring a renewed commitment to their duties. This visit not only enriched their understanding of history but also strengthened the spirit of unity within the company, fostering a shared respect for the past and a collective vision for the future. This was all made possible with the very generous donations from the regimental association, allowing all attending reservists admission into the museum.

## March Armed Forces Fair Fundraiser

Organised by Lieutenant Colonel Nigel 'Spence' Spencer MBE, the aim of the March Armed Forces Fair (MAFF) is to bring together the Armed Forces Organisations (AFO) of March and the surrounding area, to deliver a public community event and raise funds for their charities. Further goals were to encourage members of the Armed Forces Community to join and seek support from AFO's and of course to encourage the wider community to consider joining the Armed Forces, Reserves and Cadet Forces.

Charities and organisations linked to the armed services, as well as other local groups, were all there to showcase what they had to offer including careers within the forces. As well as the more serious side of the event there were also some more fun activities including a visit by the team from the Dad's Army Museum







in Thetford and other military displays. There was even a flypast from a Spitfire and a Hurricane thanks to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

The 2022 MAFF was meant to be a one-off event, but the team of serving, veteran and local volunteers all wanted to organise and deliver the event again. The second March Armed Forces Fair (MAFF) 2023 has seen praise heaped upon praise for the organisers with people posting their thanks for a fantastic event all over social media, with attendance figures estimated between 10,000 and 20,000.

The long relationship that the MPS





# Reserve Company

Reserve Company and HMP Whitemoor have, saw a joint recruiting venture at this year's MAFF. MPS attendees were WO2 Shaun P Stapleton, SSgt Paul Johnston, LCpl Tracie Hollocks and LCpl Melvyn Hollocks. HMP Whitemoor is a men's high security prison which was built on the site of an old railway marshalling yard in March, and was opened in 1991. In their recruiting team were Supervising Officers (SO) Colin Goodman, SO Joe Jones and SO Jordan McClagish.

LCpl Melvyn Hollocks is a Prison Officer at HMP Whitemoor, along with this colleague SO Colin Goodman their extensive combination of skills, experience and knowledge made for a formidable recruiting team, encouraging all ages to engage, and explore what HMP and MPS Reserves have to offer.

Other stands and organisations included WW1 and WW2 areas, Landrover, Royal British Legion, SSAFA, Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club (AFVBC), Royal Engineers Fenland Sappers' bratty Stand, RLC driving simulator, Police, NHS, March Town Council, Fenland District Council, Cassano's Bar & Hog Roast, Army Cadet Force, RAF, Classic Vehicles and Flatlanders Scooter Club, FACT Community Transport, Lynn Brewery, Veterans Radio Net, The



Salvation Army – and many more.

The day ended with an Act of Remembrance including a prayer service led by Reverend Andrew Smith, the Last Post and National Anthem, and the closing address from the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire.

This event is free to attend, and it is made successful only because of Serving, Veteran and local volunteers

who work extremely hard to deliver the biggest Forces events in the region. The team is already planning for the next date in the diary in 2025 where we hope to double the stands and double the donations to charity. If you think you can provide a stand for a charity, business, or recruitment, please let MPS Reserves Company LCpl Hollocks (either of us) know, we would love to see you there.







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# MPS Regiment History

## Flagellation, flogging, birching and corporal punishment in the Army 1685 to 1956. This on the triangles of halberds 'A' frame' with the cat-of-nine-tails.

The history of the 'flogging' of British military offenders is long and well documented, with many comments against and in favour of this form of punishment. These comments were both from well-known and respected military and political personnel.

It is also well documented in the French, Prussian, Russian, Hungarian, Belgian and Portuguese forces; but there is no history of this form of punishment within the United States of America Forces Code. But, they do have a form of 'ball and chain' punishment that inflicts severe corporal suffering; even there in times of war it is recorded that flogging is sometimes necessary. It is recorded that at times the flogging of soldiers leads to their premature deaths.

This was reduced after the introduction of military prisons and by 1847 the number of 'lashes' were reduced and a strict control/recording of them introduced.

A case can be presented for 'sadistic officers' enjoying the ability to punish the 'lower ranks' with impunity, but equally this can be countered as; there are sketches (made before the introduction of cameras) of officer classes being 'wiped' but within their Messes with no other ranked audience and there is no indication of the forces nationality indicated.

For many years in the British Army 'flagellation' was the main punishment for 'military offences'.

1685 'Articles of War' 1658 'Article 57' If any soldier being committed for any offence shall break prison, the said Provost Marshal shall by his own authority apprehend him, and the offender shall suffer 'death'. (India or Swedish-Danish War? (Tillman Holt, India,)

1689 Flogging permitted within the Militia/Army under the Mutiny Act 1689' and this reviewed each year, with the exception of three years in the reign of William III it permitted 500 to 700 lashes; it is recorded that up to 1,900 lashes had been awarded.

1698 to 1701 Mutiny Act not reviewed. 1757 "Provost Marshal", An officer appointed to seize and secure deserters

and other criminals and also to set rates on provisions in the Army".

1779 Branding no longer permitted in civilian establishments.

1792 A Sargent Grant received 1,000 lashes for enlisting two Coldstream Guard Drummers into the East Indian Company's service.

1803 Articles of War, separate for the Royal Navy; for the Army reviewed for each conflict/war.

1811 Flogging not permitted in times of peace.

1815 At Dinarore, India for insubordination, a soldier was awarded 1,900 Lashes.

1821 to 1823 There were 50 per cent floggings awarded in the total number of courts martial.

1825 to 1828 There were 20 per cent floggings awarded in the total number of courts martial.

1829 Courts martial restricted to only awarding 300 lashes.

1829 Branding suspended not abolished.

1829 to 1832 There were 16.25 per cent floggings awarded in the total number of courts martials.

1832 Scots Grays Private received 200 lashes for refusing to remount after falling off his horse.

1833 A Horse Guards circular limited flogging for offences of mutiny, insubordination, violence, drunkenness, stealing arms, ammunition, acquirements, necessities and disgraceful conduct.

1836 A Marine awarded the lash died after receiving 134 lashes of his punishment.

1836 'The Strap' on bear buttocks. 'Company Courts Martial' 1st Foot Guards (sling or firelock).

1836 A Commission of Investigation for separate Military Prison for their awards. Negative.

1837 Sir Charles Napier states in 'Remarks on Military Law' before this date he had frequently seen 600 to 1,000 lashes inflicted after Regimental courts marshal.

1840 Flogging permitted recorded.

1844 A further Royal Commission for the introduction for Military Prisons. Negative.

1844 Queen's Regulations states the

Provost Marshal will be of Captain rank. 1847 Number of permitted lashes reduced to 50.

1850 The first Military Prisons established at home (8) and abroad (9). 1855 The Corps of Military Police to carry out Military Prison duties at Aldershot.

1859 The punishment of flogging restricted to the more serious 'offences' alone.

1864 There were 11.9 per cent of floggings awarded in the total number of courts martials.

1865 Imprisoned 16,804. Flogged 601. Branded 1,636. Flogging 3.58 per cent.

1865 There were 1.18 per cent of floggings awarded in the total number of courts martial. Over the previous 44 years from a look at the 'Returns' it shows a reduction from 50 per cent to 1.18 per cent in floggings in relation to courts martial and it demonstrates the decline in the use of flogging at home.

1866 Imprisoned 19,257. Flogged 510. Branded 1,584. Flogging 2.6%

1867 Imprisoned 18,854. Flogged 150. Branded 1,805. Flogging 0.79 per cent.

1867 Flogging considered as 'Inhuman and degrading unnecessary for maintenance of discipline.

1867 An 'Act' was passed in Parliament that abolished the use of the lash in times of peace.

1870 Mutiny Act still recorded the 'BC' (Bad Caricature) brand as a military punishment.

1879 Section 74 AA Provost Marshal loses the power of summary punishments and inflicting them.

1879 The Army Discipline and Regulation Act (D&R A) replaced the Mutiny Act.

1879 Branding completely abolished, except for 'military desertion'.

1881 The Army Act (AA consolidates the D&R A for war and peace.

1881 Flogging abolished, but, still permitted in military prisons; the 'Birch' permitted.

1881 It is recorded that in Military Prisons the 'Cat' is only for punishments relating to assaults. The 'Birch' is recorded in returns as used in Brixton, Dublin and Gosport military prisons



in 1895.  
 1882 to 1895 Clenshaw recorded at Aldershot MP.  
 1883 Clenshaw appointed Assisted Warder at Taunton MP in November.  
 1883 The 'Cat' was still being used in military prisons as a punishment for offenses against prison rules.  
 1889 Clenshaw transferred to Aldershot MP.  
 1889 to 1892 Clenshaw recorded many floggings in Taunton and Aldershot MPs.  
 1892 Exercising of prisoners on Saturdays and Sundays to be reviewed to establish a Sunday rest for some staff.  
 1895 Clenshaw appointed warder at Aldershot MP.  
 1895 In Brixton MP one soldier received 18 lashes of the Cat/Birch. Birched 1.  
 1895 In Gosport MP two soldiers received 25 lashes of the Cat/Birch. Birched 3.  
 1895 In Dublin MP three soldiers received 12 Lashes of the Cat/Birch. Birched 4.  
 1899 Warder Clenshaw appointed Warder Clerk at Cairo MP in November.  
 1899 to 1904 Clenshaw recorded at Cairo MP.  
 1902 Warder Clerk Clenshaw transferred to Aldershot M P.  
 1902 Clenshaw appointed Chief Warder at Glasgow Branch Prison.  
 1902 to 1904 Clenshaw recorded at Glasgow MP.  
 1905 Chief Warder Clenshaw transferred to Gibraltar.  
 1905 to 1906 Chief Warder Clenshaw recorded at Gibraltar.  
 1907 No further mention of Chief Warder Clenshaw's service.  
 1935 Chief Warder Clenshaw recorded his service for Captain Griffin's Corps History Records.  
 1956 All Flogging/Birching/Caning was finally banned in all military establishments and schools.  
 2006 The Armed Forces Act regulates the forms of punishment permitted for offences.  
 It is recorded that the Naval offenders that received the 'Lash' on sailing man-of-wars braided their own 'Cat-of-Nine-Tails' from 5ft or 9ft of 2in rope, what an indignity, the Army equivalent had a Wooden handle and was 3 ft in length. The 1749 Naval "Articles of War" was the 'Act' governing the use of their 'Cat'. It was considered one lash of the navel 'Cat' was the equivalent of several of the Army's 'Cat'. The Naval Cat was measured by 'dozens' instead of

'hundreds'; 12 afloat was fully equal to a 100 ashore.

#### **Military Branding**

'BC' Bad Caricature;  
 'D' Deserter;  
 'F' Felon.

#### **Civilian Branding**

'A' Adulterous;  
 'B' Blasphemy;  
 'D' Drunkenness;  
 'F' Fray-maker;  
 'M' Manslaughter Murder;  
 'P' Perjurer;  
 'R' Rogue;  
 'S' Slave;  
 'SL' Seditious Libeler;  
 'SS' Slave Stealer;  
 'SS' Sower of Sedition;  
 'T' Thief...possibly from USA.

Further to the above, non commissioned officers carried 'Rattans' or 'Supple Jacks' (small cane or vine) and often struck their subordinates with them for minor infringements. Under the 'Articles of War' these had been referred to as Devil's Articles'. In James's Military Dictionary' the 'Cat' was described 'as' a 'whip with nine knotted cords'. The military 'Cat' was a weapon about 18 inches in length, armed with nine thongs of the same 18 inch length, each thong bearing five or six knots, compressed and hardened into sharp edges till each had acquired the consistency of horn.' The Naval 'Cat' is visible on the gun deck of Nelson's HMS Victory within the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard, one per cannon/gun.

1700 Found recorded: Provost Marshal at Madras India 'early 1700's'..."You shall preserve and keep all manner of instruments in your custody, as gyves, shackles, bolts, chains, bilboes, manacles, whips etc, using them either in case of judgment or in command from Justice or Justices of the Choultry or from the Council of Commissioned Officers". (Wheatley Garthorn or Ephraim Goss)

1879 A reference to the AA is recorded, first official reference to the AA is 1881. Erroneous?

1881 It is recorded the 'Cat-of-Nine-Tails' and the 'Birch' in use, 'Cat' military establishments and the 'Birch' military and civil establishments. Ref. No 11.

The above dated quotes list almost 300

years of flagellation within the New British Armed Forces.

It documents as the years progressed attitudes for and against this form of punishment was finally but gradually losing favour. The "A" Frames and Regimental Paraded Squares, this to ensure that a maximum number of soldiers witnessed this form of disciplining punishment and to instill that discipline, but; it also had the opposite reaction...it pushed political and military leaders to question the process and to campaign for the lowering of the number of lashes and to advocate for the banning of this practice. It is recorded in Victorian times the reason for this barbaric practice was to act as a warning or deterrent to others and instill the duties of obedience, cleanliness, sobriety and honesty; also to maintain discipline as not too is the difference between order and a mob.

"Good behavior is the consequence of good training and indoctrination, designed to ensure compliance to orders among individuals and a group there by maintaining the coherence in a military unit."

From: Ref No 12.

#### **Reference**

- 1 Corporal Punishment: Birching, Caning & Flogging.
- 2 Corps Historical Staff Records.
- 3 Hansard Aug 1846. Vol. 86 cc 757-60.
- 4 History of the Office of the Provost Marshal. By A Vaughan Lovell-Knight. 1943.
- 5 History of the Rod. 1875. Chapter 34 & 35, By Rev Wm M Cooper BA.
- 6 In Glasshouses. Robert Boyes 1988.
- 7 Letter from Chief Warder Clenshaw to Captain Griffin for the MPSC Corps History 1935.
- 8 MPSC Association Archives (AA) Photograph 1903, Sketch post 1896.
- 9 MPSC AA Photograph 1903 by permission of Gosport Forton Prison Museum.
- 10 Parliamentary Papers, Report Commissioners on Military Punishments, 1863, Vol 1.
- 11 Treatment of Military Prisoners. Confidential Report. PRO Kew WO 32/8733.
- 12 The War Machine' Professor G. Sheffield RMAS. 29 January 2014.
- 13 Warder Clenshaw dates recorded as found in Ref No 7.

**Dan Cowley**  
**29 January 2022**

# Can You Remember?

## The Braemar Games

*Kindly submitted by Pete Jennings*







Winners of the Inter-Services tug-of-war event, always one of the most popular competitions in the games, were the team from the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester.

# Can You Remember?



25 Military Prison and Detention Barracks, BAOR. 1946.



Reunion 1950s London.





57 York Military Prison - aerial view.



BreakOut Challenge 2017.



# Can You Remember?



Duchess of Gloucester Royal Visit October 2012.



Chelsea Pensioners Dennis Carr and Jimmy Nicholson.



Corps Weekend 2015 Bert Amey and Graham Harris.



Visit of Colonel AGC 2009.



## The Perimeter Guard Towers, Prisoner of War Camp 186's Colchester

*Dan Cowley*

The Guard Towers were positioned so that they were able to see and cover by line of sight the and line of fire the perimeter fences between each of the Towers and they all faced inwards, they were single occupied towers with a guard armed with a Mk. IV .303 Lee Enfield Rifle.

They had been designed to accommodate a Bren Gun on Fixed lines and the 'Beaten Zone' at a given distance was the main design dimension used for the compounds, [This was passed to me by Lt Col J Pool Royal Engineers (RE) who had been at that location and Colchester Garrison from 1943 to 1947 as the Clerk of Works for that project and had previously trained as a Surveyor and as a reserved occupation had served with/for the RE's.] but there is no indication that they were ever so equipped with Bren Guns or them used; the Towers were all in contact through a Land Line with the two East and West perimeter Guard Rooms, the HQ of the Five Camp/Lagers and the Camp HQ located in the Berechurch Hall House.

They towers were positioned over and between the two perimeter fences, access was by ladder on the outer side of the two fences, below there was a permanent single foot patrol between the two Guard Rooms; a mobile vehicle patrol was also in place over the four outside perimeter Camp Roadways all with a "T" turning area at the end of the roads at the Ramparts Lane end. The full outer road that encircled the Camp included the Ramparts Lane and Berechurch Hall Road, there has been no records found that indicates if there was an outer mobile patrol on these roads other than during escapes. But the Gate joining this Camp with the Ramparts Lane from the south/east side of the Camp is recorded as being the original Camp entrance until the Berechurch Hall Road entrance was opened.

The perimeter fence was supported by wooden ash poles about 10 feet apart with up to 10 lines of barbed wire and with a roles of 'Dannet' wire fixed at the top and fixed at the bottom by the use of 'Silent Pickets' to the inner and outer fences with a walk-way between the two fences.

The Guard Towers were erected on the top of four metal scaffold poles to make a high rigid and safe structure for the Guard Tower, the tower had two to three open sides of various heights depending on their location; they were all surmounted with a wriggly tin weather proof top that was not painted in aerial camouflaging colours.

There is no recorded design of the Guard Towers, the only record left is from the many sketches, lino cuts and paintings left by the now long gone POW's; one Jaroslav Vostatek who in 1947 left many water colours of the perimeter Fence and Guard Towers. In all of his depicted Guard Towers they all look of different designs and construction methods, wooden supporting legs and scaffold pole legs, the supported towers were constructed from ill fitted boards and wriggly tin sheets; all accessed by a wooden ladder from the rear of the tower.

The impression left is that there was no basic design and they were erected by the different Camp/Lager's occupants from what was available at that time and from/within that location. The painting's show a front, side and back all of different heights but depending on the lines of sight required at that location, all accompanied by a Lamp Post and Land line Post in close proximity. The location of the diorama is likely to be near the Theatre des Camp 186, and the Cabaret Theatre



located to the rear of the Royal Engineers/Ministry of Public Buildings & Works/Department of Environment (RE/MPBW/DOE) Office in the South/West of the perimeter fence. Later to be removed together with the two outer perimeter fences and by 1947 the need for them had reseeded as the Camp 186 had been emptied of POW's.

One of the above J. Vostatek Watercolours has been reproduced as a three dimensional model by using the Lid of an 'MFO' Box, 2.4 meters 12x12mm moulding, Cherry Sticks, Bamboo Kebab Sticks, Wooden Knitting Needles, Aero & plastic Knitting Needles, Wooden Knife Fork & Spoon items, Wooden Coffee Stirrers, Corrugated Cardboard in proportion for wriggle tin top, 2 metres of 3 ply electric cable and lastly two wooden supports of two children's plastic windmills; all done free hand after a three year period of thought and 'collection'.

A searchlight has been added to the model, although; there is no indication that this item was included/issued but the debris from the above list prompted the inclusion, three 'Silent Pickets' also added as there will be no knowledge as to what they were; but they have been located at the perimeter by MPS Staff on site with 'Metal Detectors'. Scale: By proportion. From: The J. Vostatek watercolour.

Reference: *Camp 186 The Lost Town of Berechurch.* by Ken Free.

# Can You Remember?

Answer and Correspondence - Daily Mail 17 August 2023



**Question. Until World War II the British Army wore Puttees. What were they?**

*Answer by: Jason Cummings, Chippenham, Wiltshire.*

PUTTEES are strips of cloth wound tightly as a form of legging or leg wrapping for protection and support.

Their use in the British Army can be traced to the colonial India in the mid-19th century. The name was devised from putti, the Hindu word for bandage.

British soldiers stationed in India adopted the practice from local soldiers, who used puttees to protect against thorns and snake bites.

In 1902, when the iconic red tunic was abandoned in favour of khaki for servicemen, puttees became part of the uniform.

Canvas field grey, grey blue and khaki puttees replaced gaiters – long coverings that buttoned up from the boot to the knee. These were expensive, difficult to clean and fiddly.

The use of puttees was widespread in World War I. Conscripted men were often late for roll call because of the difficulty of putting them on: they were either too tight and uncomfortable or too loose and prone to falling down.



**A World War I (1914) MPSC NCO in Service Dress and wearing puttees.**

As one soldier put it: “The rolling of the puttees were a mystery...the rolls opened like gills of fishes: they were too thick round the ankle or too tight round the calf.

Though they were meant to keep out water and mud to protect the feet, in wet conditions they could shrink, impeding circulation and exacerbating trench foot and frostbite. However, they could be used in the field as a tourniquet to staunch the flow of blood from a wound.

In 1938 puttees were replaced with a new type of gaiter. A thick canvas webbing cuff covering the top of the boot, secured by buckles.

In 1958, the uniform and equipment that had been used since World War II was replaced. Short puttees – less than half the length of the World War I version – were made from khaki wool and secured by woven cotton tapes.

When their shortcomings were exposed in the Falklands War, they were replaced by high leg boots.

The mounted troops started their puttees from the top and tied then off at the bottom. The unmounted (foot) troops started their puttees at the bottom and tied them off at the top, as did the MPSC.

\*One clearly shows the two ways of ‘winding’ the puttees, crossed and un/crossed.



# Association News

## Royal Hospital In-Pensioner Visit



**In-Pensioners Wally Swan and Dave Williams, MPS Regiment RSM, Regimental Secretary and In-Pensioner Alan Chalkey.**

In late November the Regimental Secretary and the MPS Regiment RSM visited our two In-Pensioners, Wally Swan and Dave Williams. They are both in good spirits, as ever their generosity was in abundance and they both look forward to

meeting us all at Regimental events next year.

It was also good to meet up with In-Pensioner Alan Chalkey who is badged to another Regiment, and he sends his regards to all that knew him when he served with the MPSC.

# Association News

## Heritage Centre hosts successful Open Days

The Association held two Heritage Centre open days in 2023 and it was good to see a positive turnout, some even popped over from the USA!

More open days will be held in 2024, a Regimental Bulletin will be sent out shortly confirming the dates.

*In April we had:*

- Roy Boulter son of the late Major Harry Boulter MPSC.
- Frances Boulter daughter of the late ex SSgt Frank Simpson MPSC.
- Dexter Boulter grandson of the late Major Harry Boulter MPSC.
- Lottie Boulter great granddaughter of the late Major Harry Boulter MPSC
- Lucas Boulter great grandson of the late Major Harry Boulter and ex S/Sgt
- Frank Simpson MPSC.

*In August we had:*

- Geoffrey Milton and his partner, Geoffrey is the son of the late Major Eric Milton MPSC, and visited whilst in the UK from the USA.

*And in October we had:*

- Dave Annand and his family.





# Association News

## Obituaries

### Lieutenant Colonel Simon Fordham OBE Late Welsh Guards

by Paul de Zulueta

*Published with kind permission of the editor of The Guards Magazine*

It was a measure of the respect in which Simon Fordham was held as the Commandant of the Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC) in Colchester that he would often receive postcards from former 'detainees' letting him know how they were getting on in civilian life.

These gave Simon great pleasure. He would point to his two years at the MCTC as the most rewarding time of his career. Simon was awarded the OBE for his tireless work and leadership during this period. At the age of seven, Simon was sent to the preparatory school of Stonyhurst College, Hodder, in Lancashire.

He showed early signs of a gladiatorial spark by winning the 'victor ludorum' and representing the school at rugby and boxing before moving on to the more imposing main school. Stonyhurst was founded by Jesuits, the college as austere in its appearance as the Jesuits who taught there.

Amongst its eclectic former alumni are three saints, several Latin American presidents, and seven holders of the Victoria Cross. Simon had no family connections with the Welsh Guards and joined the Regiment because RSM Stokes of the Stonyhurst College CCF, a man he had grown to admire, was a Welsh Guardsman. It was while playing rugby for the school that Simon acquired a noticeably chipped front tooth, something he kept throughout his life, and which gave him a faintly piratical appearance.

The boy who gave him his chipped tooth later became his best man at his wedding to Suzie in the Guards Chapel in 1968. Stonyhurst not only left a physical mark on Simon; his unswerving Catholic faith sustained him throughout his life, particularly after he suffered a debilitating stroke in 2008. As a young officer, Simon learnt his trade on a gruelling but successful operational tour with the battalion in Aden.

A further demanding operational tour in Northern Ireland at the height of the



Troubles in 1972 where he played a part in the capture of Ivor Bell, the IRA's Belfast commander, and a period as chief instructor of the anti-tank course at Warminster, gave Simon the depth of experience he needed to build a successful career. Simon made his mark as the Battalion's Second in Command in BAOR in 1984-6.

It was a challenging period for the Welsh Guards, and personally challenging for Simon. The Regiment had suffered the tragedy of losing 32 men on the Sir Galahad during the Falklands campaign in 1982. Its Welsh hywl was at a low ebb. The Battalion's leadership as it prepared itself for BAOR and deployed to Hohne as part of 22nd Armoured Brigade was well intentioned but insensitive to the campaign's emotional trauma. As Second in Command, Simon worked hard to balance the conflicting demands of operational effectiveness and building back the Battalion's self-confidence. His integrity and competence shone through.

He earned a well-deserved promotion

to lieutenant colonel. Simon's selection as Commandant of the MCTC was an inspired choice. In 1987, it was a dire collection of Nissan huts which had not been upgraded since its time as a prisoner of war camp.

Simon oversaw the centre's rebuild and the introduction of a tailored rehabilitation programme of physical exercise, academic and practical trade study, and specific counselling. Reoffending rates were 8% compared to 25% in civilian prisons. He firmly believed that if men were to be locked up, then helping them to lead worthwhile lives afterwards should be the MCTC's overriding priority.

On one occasion, a soldier went on strike refusing to wear anything but a blanket. Several senior non-commissioned officers were called in to 'straighten him out' but to no avail. Simon went to talk to the soldier and after five minutes the soldier agreed to step back in line. Simon never let on what he had said to the soldier nor, apparently,

# Association News

had he cause to raise his voice.

But those who knew Simon well would not have been surprised. Beneath a gruff exterior, Simon was a man of great humanity, warmth and understanding. Simon's next appointment as defence attaché to Cameroon on the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa was a stark contrast to Colchester.

But it was a change that Simon and Suzie and their four children willingly embraced. Simon always had a healthy sense of the absurd. Cameroon has 250 native languages where pidgin English is the only common tongue. Its cultural heritage derives from both France and Britain. Twice the size of the UK, its geography is arresting, comprising coastal plains, desert, mountains, rainforest, and savanna.

The posting played to Simon and Suzie's sense of adventure and gift for getting on with people from every walk of life. They were also able to welcome the Welsh Guards 'Roof of Africa' expedition led by Captain John Warburton-Lee whose team climbed every African peak over one year. It was during

The Prince and Princess of Wales's trip to West Africa, which Simon orchestrated, that he was awarded the

OBE by the Prince for his work at the MCTC. Simon got on particularly well with the British ambassador who recommended that Simon should be the next Governor of St Helena. He was amused by this suggestion and put it down to some implausible link between Napoleon's incarceration on the island after the Battle of Waterloo and his experience at the MCTC. The Foreign Office did not take up the ambassador's recommendation. Simon recognised that the best of his Army years was now behind him and with Options for Change casting a shadow over the Army's future, he decided to take up voluntary redundancy. He left in 1992, and Simon and Suzie had put down their roots in Mells in Somerset, a village with a small tight-knit community, a grade 2 listed war memorial by Lutyens, and a fine 14th century church. Simon and Suzie were a welcoming and gregarious couple who gave much to their local community. Simon led the campaign to keep the village post office going. He invited Mary Berry, star of the Great British Bake-Off to open a new village shop and café. He also became a director of the Royal Society of Arts for the West of England and Wales, leading many initiatives to promote the arts

and good environmental governance. In 2005, Simon ensured that the 400th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot was marked by a robust debate in the village barn and the raising of glasses to the memory of Guy Fawkes and his fellow Catholic martyrs. He also organised a commemoration for the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

In 2008, Simon suffered a severe stroke. He was unable to speak and remained in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He learnt to live in his own world and in himself, none of which he would have been able to achieve without Suzie who cared for him beautifully. He was a devoted pilgrim to Lourdes each year with Stonyhurst and the Catholic Association. Every day, he went to Mass in the village said by his old friend from Stonyhurst, Bishop Crispian Hollis. On his way home in his wheelchair, he would always pause for quiet reflection at the war memorial with its moving inscription: 'We died in a strange land facing the dark cloud of war and this stone is raised to us in the home of our delight' Bishop Crispian, who gave the homily at Simon's funeral, spoke of his final years of suffering as 'contemplative' where he achieved a rare nobility of spirit.

## Deaths

**Brown:** Ex WO1 (RSM) Jim Brown, MPSC. Jim transferred from the King's Own Scottish Borderers to the Military Provost Staff Corps in 1967. He served in Colchester, Hong Kong and Northern Ireland. He retired in 1981.

**Ludlow:** Daz transferred from The Royal Anglian Regiment to the Military Provost Staff in 2004. He served in Colchester, Defence College of Policing and Guarding, Iraq and Afghanistan. A large contingent of MPS members, both serving and retired, attended the funeral, which was held in Shrewsbury.

**Searle:** Ex WO2 Richard James Eardley Searle (Dick). Dick transferred from The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1970. Dick served in Colchester, Hong Kong and Northern Ireland, he retired in 1984.

**Tattersall:** WO2 Neil Tattersall AGC (SPS), Neil served as the MCTC SSA in the late 2000s.

**Bentley:** Ex SSgt Phil J Bentley, Military Provost Staff Corps. Phil transferred from the 3rd Battalion (The Pompadours), The Royal Anglian Regiment September 1980. Phil served in Colchester and retired in October 1990.

**Tingay:** Ex WO2 Geoffrey Tingay, Military Provost Staff Corps. Geoffrey transferred from the Army Catering Corps in 1975. Geoffrey served in Colchester and Northern Ireland and retired in 1988.

**Charlton:** Mrs Julie Charlton - wife of the late Les Charlton.

**Fordham:** Lt Col Simon Fordham OBE WG

**Turnbull:** Ex WO2 Tommy T Turnbull, Military Provost Staff Corps, who transferred from the Durham Light Infantry in February 1968, passed away on Saturday 6th May 2023. He served in Colchester and Northern Ireland and retired in May 1978.

**Martin:** Ex Sgt Tom Martin BEM, Military Provost Staff Corps. Tom transferred from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1986. Tom served in Colchester and retired in 1997.

**Hookway:** Ex Sgt Joe Hookway, Military Provost Staff. Joe transferred from the Royal Logistic Corps in 1996. Joe served in Colchester and Chichester, he retired in 2005.





