

# MPS



No 133

2024



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





# Military Provost Staff Regiment and Association Journal 2024

## **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:**

Military Provost Staff Regiment King's Coronation Medals Parade.

### **Back Cover:**

Military Provost Staff Regiment AGC Triple Crown Champions.

## **Published by**

Sareda Ltd

64 Headlands, Kettering NN15 6DG

Telephone: 01536 412277



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



# Military Provost Staff Regiment and Association Journal 2024

## Contents

The Regiment	6	Regimental Sport	24
Gazette	7	Regimental News	26
Editorial	8	SCF North	34
Provost Marshal's Notes	9	SCF South	40
Lt Col Chris Carter MBE (LANCS)	10	SCF Midlands and Wales	44
Commanding Officer's Notes	10	SCF Scotland	46
The Regiment	12	SCF Northern Ireland	50
Detention Company	18	Reserve Company	54
Security and Reception Department	19	MPS Regiment History	59
Operations and Training Company	20	Association News	60
HQ PM (A) Detention and Custody Team	22	Deaths	69
Gymnasium	22		




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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 C Carter MBE LANCS

### 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

Mr L Pearse

### Regimental Secretary

Major (Retd) RG Corcoran MBE

*Veritas et Aequitas - Truth and Equity*

# Gazette

## Honours and Awards

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

### Deputy Chief of the General Staff Commendation

Corporal AC Panton

### Provost Marshal (Army) Commendation

25101387 WO2 Kris Mulley

### Promotions

#### Warrant Officer to Captain

25189980 WO2 Christopher Harte

T8432978 Sgt Peter Scarlett

21170969 Sgt Tanka Tembe

#### Warrant Officer Class 2 to Warrant Officer Class 1

25066006 WO2 Brendan Luke

#### Corporal to Sergeant

30189935 Cpl Christopher Boggs

25222747 Cpl Christopher Booth

30145843 Cpl Aimee Carr

30156402 Cpl Toby Newman

21171920 Cpl Dhruba Rai

25182616 Cpl Jone Rainima

30074187 Cpl Lee Southey

25184484 Cpl Alapeni Suluma

30043917Cpl Rodrick Tittle

#### Staff Sergeant to Warrant Officer Class 2

30026276 SSgt Lewis Langford

21170693 SSgt Shyamkumar Tamang

#### Sergeant to Staff Sergeant

30020275 Sgt Jack Calver

25202664 Sgt Alexander Naylor

25204796 Sgt Alexander Rigby

### Assignments In

30038883	Sgt Richard Baird	MPS Regt SP Coy	19 February 2024
555097	Lt Col Christopher Carter	MPS Regt	1 February 2024
30246008	Capt Thomas Crickmore	MPS Regt	1 August 2024
25179996	SSgt Kevin Hayward	MPS Regt SCF Company	
		Midlands and Wales	25 November 2024
E8430626	Sgt Stephen Lee	MPS Regt Detention Coy	28 January 2024
25167811	WO2 Kelson Ollivierre	MPS Regt	29 July 2024
25188188	WO2 David Read	MPS Regt SP Coy	23 September 2024
30074187	Sgt Lee Southey	MPS Regt Ops and Trg Coy	21 October 2024
W1056568	SSgt Sharleen Thomas	MPS Regt	16 September 2024
30172641	Sgt Christopher Todd	MPS Regt	21 October 2024
L8437865	Sgt Scott Traynor	MPS Regt Ops and Trg Coy	4 March 2024
21170969	SSgt Tanka Tembe	MPS Regt Ops and Trg Coy	25 November 2024
25095577	Capt Colin Vella	MPS Regt Detention Coy	1 November 2024

### Assignments Out

553273	Lt Col Fielder	Wareham (Allenby Barracks)	1 February 2024
30170761	Maj Wilson	3 R Anglian	6 October 2024
25107938	Capt Hancock	PM Army Andover	1 November 2024
30161965	Capt Nayagam	Army Division Shrivenham	2 September 2024
25066006	WO1 Luke	PM Army Andover	27 May 2024
25165056	WO2 Buckham	HQ 1 MP BDE Andover	29 July 2024
25153109	WO2 Hagan	RRU Merville Barracks	14 October 2024
W1056303	SSgt Mannion-Williams	W and PRU Brecon	21 October 2024
30137907	Sgt Coulter	SERE Trg DEL Sqn Newquay	4 November 2024
Q8310206	Sgt Hobson	BFSAI Falkland	20 June 2024
25163270	Sgt James K	DSPS	7 August 2024
R8433078	Sgt Jokat	SPW CI and SY Sqn FPIC	
		RAF Honington	19 February 2024
25202664	Sgt Naylor	MPS Regt SCF	
		Midlands and Wales	25 November 2024

30032333	Sgt Rainford	MRTC Royston	25 November 2024
25156066	Sgt St Rose	Stafford Beacon Barracks	12 February 2024
30021650	Sgt Wood	DCAE Cosford	14 October 2024
D255975E	PO Dickson	<i>HMS Nelson</i> Portsmouth	8 July 2024
30181422	PO Miles	Navy Career Management Portsmouth	30 September 2024
F8504411	Sqn Ldr Vaughan	JFD DJW Northwood	5 February 2024
30152687	Cpl Phillips	MOD Lyneham	28 January 2024

## Transfers 2023

30120334	Cpl Prakash Budha Magar	MPS Regt SCF Coy North
D260911h	Sgt Luke Casey	MPS Regt Detention Coy
30190180	Sgt Stuart Chassang	MPS Regt Detention Coy
25167272	Sgt Patrick Collier	MPS Regt Detention Coy
30205243	Cpl James Dixon	MPS Regt SCF Coy Midlands and Wales
30035452	Sgt Luke Garth	MPS Regt Detention Coy
21171673	Sgt Pradip Gurung	MPS Regt Detention Coy
30045149	Sgt Shaun Kerslake	MPS Regt Detention Coy
21171157	Sgt Jhamak Limbu	MPS Regt Detention Coy
30172617	Cpl Kurt Mannell	MPS Regt SCF Coy Midlands and Wales
30153700	Cpl Ryan Mayes	MPS Regt SCF Coy Midlands and Wales
30050263	Cpl Daneal Pibial	MPS Regt SCF Coy North
21171495	Cpl Rabinkumar Rai	MPS Regt SCF Coy South
30085686	Cpl Utsab Rai	MPS Regt SCF Coy Scotland
21171302	Sgt Naresh Salami	MPS Regt Detention Coy
25202873	Sgt Alifereti Seruisavou	MPS Regt Detention Coy
30189229	Cpl Matt Sharp	MPS Regt Ops and Trg Coy
30067920	Cpl Billy Tovee	MPS Regt Ops and Trg Coy

# Editorial

*Major (Retd) RG Corcoran MBE*

The MPS Regiment's Families Day event in June 2024 was a success and this year's event will be held on Saturday 7 June 2025. 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.

This is my last Regimental Journal as editor and Regimental Secretary, I am retiring at the end of April 2025. It has been an honour to serve the MPS, both serving personnel and veterans and I would like to thank all members of the Association for their support during my tenure, it would not have been possible without all of you.

In particular my thanks to Majors Hutchinson and Moffatt who always did their utmost to assist, particularly during the more difficult moments. Thanks also to my predecessor, Les Pearse who was always ready to help out on a regular basis and Dan Cowley who was invaluable with his knowledge of MPSC history. And finally my thanks to the Trustees who supported me throughout my tenure.

As I write this, the plan for my replacement has not been finalised, I

suspect that the post of MPS Regimental Secretary will be covered by a desk officer in AGC HQ Worthy Down, this is supposition, but highly probable. More importantly the benevolence coverage for serving personnel and veterans will not change and will continue to be covered. Once the plan is known a bulletin will be sent out covering all the detail.

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.

The new MPS Regiment and Association tie is still 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>

I urge you all to embrace the change to our Association, we can and will continue to flourish as a very strong cohort.

Thank you all very much.

*Corky*





# Provost Marshal's Notes

*Brigadier Sarah L Pringle-Smith, Provost Marshal (Army)*

This year has been one of extraordinary achievement, evolution, and resilience for the Military Provost Staff. It is my privilege, as Head of Profession, to reflect on the tremendous contributions made by our personnel, whose efforts have not only upheld but enhanced our operational effectiveness and esprit de corps.

## Operational Excellence

The Military Provost Staff has demonstrated unparalleled commitment to operational delivery, with over three-hundred detainees processed into the Military Corrective Training Centre and Service Custody Facilities. Additionally, twenty-six personnel deployed across the United Kingdom and overseas - including the Falklands, Estonia, Norway, and Brunei - highlighted the diverse capabilities of our soldiers.

Whether providing custodial advice, real-life support, or training as part of short-term teams, the Military Provost Staff continues to serve as a trusted enabler in operational and exercise settings.

One particular highlight is the delivery of over one-hundred Operation INTERFLEX training sessions by the Operations and Training Company. This task underscores our contribution to the United Kingdom's Defence priorities while reinforcing our reputation as a centre of excellence in custodial and detention training.

## Strengthening Team Cohesion

Our collective achievements extend beyond operations. This year, the Military Provost Staff excelled in regimental and individual sporting competitions, further fostering teamwork and morale. Notably, we secured the AGC Triple Crown and the Neil Robertson Pace Sticking Cup while individuals triumphed in powerlifting, football, rugby, and other sports. These successes reflect the dedication, talent, and competitive spirit that characterises the Regiment.



Our commitment to professional development is equally commendable. Personnel undertook adventurous training and battlefield studies in Cyprus, Gibraltar, and Malta, gaining insights into historical and operational detention lessons. Academic achievements, such as earning degrees in Business Management and Data Science, further demonstrate our drive to enhance skills and expertise.

## Driving Innovation

The Military Provost Staff has made significant strides in optimising custodial facilities. The recent re-alignment of Service Custody Facilities to Midlands and Wales and the Military Corrective Training Centre marks a crucial step

toward achieving better balance for our people while maintaining support for the Service Justice System. Concurrently, the review of overseas Service Custody Facilities aims to align these facilities with the Military Provost Staff Regiment, ensuring consistent standards of detention across the Defence estate.

We have also strengthened relationships with external organisations, including His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, through inspections, visits, and collaborative engagements. These partnerships not only enhance professional standards but also reinforce the Military Provost Staff's position as a trusted authority in custody and detention.

## Expanding Influence

This year, the Military Provost Staff played a key role in shaping NATO's Operational Detention Forum and developing a NATO Operational Detention Handbook. These initiatives solidify the United Kingdom's leadership in custody and detention training while ensuring interoperability and collaboration among NATO partners. The continuation of Captured Persons training for Ukrainian personnel under Operation INTERFLEX and our involvement with the Military Police Advisory Group underscore our global impact and commitment to supporting international partners.

## Looking Ahead

The achievements of the past year stand as a testament to the resilience, professionalism, and dedication of every member of the Military Provost Staff. As we embrace new challenges and opportunities, I am confident the Regiment will continue to evolve and excel. Thank you for your hard work, perseverance, and commitment to the Military Provost Staff mission. Together, we remain an indispensable asset to Defence.

*Veritas et Aequitas*

## **Lieutenant Colonel Chris Carter MBE (LANCS)** **Commanding Officer Military Provost Staff Regiment and Commandant** **Military Corrective Training Centre**

Lieutenant Colonel Carter joined the Army at 18 years old in October 2000. Upon successful completion of both Rowallen Company and the Commissioning Course he joined the King's Own Royal Border Regiment in 2001 and, following amalgamation, the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment in 2006.

His formative years as a Junior Officer were Operationally focussed with deployments in 2003 on Op BANNER with the 4th Battalion the Royal Irish Regiment, Op TELIC 5 as an Armoured Infantry Platoon Commander with the 1st Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and as a Mechanised Infantry Company Second-in-Command with the 1st Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment on Op TELIC 11. This was interspersed with appointments as a Platoon Commander at the Infantry Training Centre, Jungle Warfare training in Belize and as the Adjutant of a Reserve Unit with the 4th Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

On the Staff, Carter was employed as SO3 O&D in the newly formed Headquarters Support Command where he was fortunate enough to be awarded a Commander Land Forces Commendation for his support to Op OLYMPICS and as SO2 Training in



Headquarters 4th Infantry Brigade, spending the majority of his time as the Course of Action team lead and covering SO2 Plans on various multinational exercises.

In 2017 he was given the honour of

Commanding Alma Company of the 2nd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment, deploying on Op TORAL 5 initially as the Chief Operations Officer for Kabul, then returning as the Light Mechanised Infantry Force Protection Company. A stint as the King's Division's Officer Career Manager in the Army Personnel Centre then preceded a return to Armoured Infantry as the Second-in-Command of the 1st Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment, and the award of an MBE for his role in controlling the Unit move and a simultaneous Battalion deployment to deliver COVID testing, the re-role to Light-Mechanised Infantry and for stepping up with the Battalion Staff as a LOCON Brigade Commander on Exercise WARFIGHTER.

Attendance on the Advanced Command and Staff Course in 2023 finally rectified his lack of academic credentials, gaining a Distinction in his Masters Degree in Security Studies for his dissertation on hybrid-working and its applications to the Military.

Chris is married to Katie and is father to two primary school aged children, and a badly behaved Cocker Spaniel, all based in Cumbria. If he gets any free time it is spent on his motorcycle or out running.

## **Commanding Officer's Notes**

*Lieutenant Colonel Chris Carter MBE (LANCS)*

It's been a year (almost to the day) that I have been fortunate enough to have been so warmly welcomed into the Military Provost Staff Regiment and I am extremely grateful to play a part in such an amazing and vital organisation.

And what a year it has been! 2024 has been characterised by great change on a scale only matched by the effort, determination and hard work of those Soldiers, Sailors, Aviators, Civilians and Officers that have driven it through at such speed. My heartfelt thanks goes out to each and every one of you for playing your part. I know that it hasn't been easy, but you have responded to the uncertainty and friction in a way that will shape the future of this Regiment for years to come.

Those who have lived this will require little in the way of reminding but for the

wider Regimental Family I will attempt to provide a brief synopsis. The most significant changes have been driven by the implementation of the Future Soldier Organisational Structure, deftly overseen by the Regimental 2IC Major Rob Moffat, in a change programme that could never have been attempted without his hard work, guidance and fortitude. Following the reduction of 24 posts, Capt Mark Jackson and WO2 Carver have supported WO2 Langford in the establishment of an Operations Platoon to deliver the almost constant Exercise and Operational support required from the MPS by the wider Army. They have been phenomenally busy conducting activities such as spinning up last minute deployments to Romania or the British Indian Overseas Territories, delivery of CPERS lessons to NATO allies or

the constant resourcing of our Custody Facilities in areas such as the Falklands or Cyprus.

With the departure of Capt Joe Hancock and commissioning of Capt Chris Harte, the UK Service Custody Facilities have been completely restructured. WO2 Bulivou and the ICs SSgts Baxter, McKay, Bielefelo, Hayward, Rigby and Naylor have deftly managed the change to reallocate all personnel from Northern Ireland and Scotland, increasing the remaining SCFs to eleven personnel and returning SCF Midlands & Wales to a full licence. SSgt Naylor will now energise and re-focus his team operationally to form the deployable Command Structure of future readiness activations and deployments.

Capt Woolley and WO2 Ward have refocussed Detention Company

on delivering the basics well with all stop red-line days to update staff on latest UK Detention policy and focus on consistency and standards. The Command structure has been completely reworked to align responsibility with accountability through the allocation of 5-6 Sgt's to specific SSgt's creating teams with clear objectives focussing on UK detention expertise, Battlecraft Syllabus and Individual Training Requirement completion. This activity cannot be underestimated and has required a fundamental change in mindset which they have admirably achieved, instilling greater team ethos and support.

The MPS Reserve Company has continued to shine. Major Mick Sanderson, Capt Steve Johnson, WO2 Hall and SSgt Gold have deftly led the team in developing and testing Operational Detention doctrine at momentum, using the Annual Deployment Exercise as the testing ground. An MPS Tactical Aide Memoire, Staff Annex Template and Reserve Deployment review have all been delivered in predictably excellent fashion.

None of this could have been achieved without the dedication and selflessness of the supporting departments. Kim and her team have continued to battle staff shortages to deliver superb resettlement packages and reduce the risk of reoffending. WO2 Tamang's Training Platoon has continued the Training Support required to re-ignite both Staff and Detainee professionalism. The Farm has been completely overhauled under Hayden's superb efforts and the Offender Management Unit under Krissie and WO2 Herschall has continued to develop deft intervention plans to keep our reputation high. Security and Receptions under Capt Vella, WO2 Ollivierre and Sgt Newbatt have been equally challenged with uncertain staffing lists and a near constant visit programme. Both Welfare departments under Ali and WO2 Jenkins have continued to operate at tempo providing genuinely life-changing support to their personnel and Rebecca and her Admin team have continued to provide excellent support to Staff and Detainees.

Lastly, honourable mentions go to the QM's and Gymnasium. The QM, Capt Craig Coombes, and his team have been nothing short of outstanding. The MCTC has been added onto the Army's Basing and Infrastructure plan to update our aging infrastructure. Lived experience improvements such as the Guard Room, Mess, Detention Company Lines and Education have been delivered at pace.



In the Gym QMSI Reid has relentlessly improved the equipment, ethos and engagement of all staff utilising novel technology such as My Zone heart rate monitors and flexible PT sessions. He and his team have improved the deployability of the Regiment by a shocking 13% (which is still climbing), and reflected in the winning of all Corps and Brigade competition Trophies this year notably the AGC Triple Crown under SSgt Isaacs and the award of the Brigade Commander's Cup.

Wider, under RSM Batterham, we have seen the first ever full Battalion Medals Parade with the awarding of the King's Coronation Medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, a superb reinvigoration of the WO's and Sgt's Mess in an excellently attended Garsia night and the largest contingent of MPS in recent history at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.

Space is regrettably too short to mention everybody who has thrown themselves into developing this fantastic Regiment this year, but you can look forward to reading all about it in the following pages. It couldn't be done without the tireless support of the families and wider association. Lastly however, I would like to give my deepest thanks to Major Corky Corcoran who is finally retiring this year. He has given his heart and soul into this family and has immeasurably improved the lives of all of us through his selflessness, dedication and sense of duty.

My final thought would be that sometimes it can be easy to forget that this Regiment changes lives on a daily basis. Please take time to reflect now and again on the inspiring and incredible work you all do. You should be very proud of your achievements; they really are extraordinary.

# The Regiment

## 1 MP Bde Pace-Sticking Competition Neil Robertson Cup 2024

*by Sgt T James MPS Regt, Event Lead*



**The winning team from Ops/Training Company.**

On Thursday 26 June 2024, Lt Col C Carter MBE (The Commandant MCTC and CO MPS Regt) authorised the running of 1MP Bde Pace Stick Competition - Neil Robertson Cup to be held at the MCTC.

This year's competition was hosted in the Essex summer, a heat trap of the UK, and was greatly felt by competitors and spectators, it quickly became apparent that all shelter and shade needed to be utilised in addition to refreshments, for competitors the heat added additional pressure...it is most important pace-sticks do not become too slippery with a risk of dropping sticks.

The MPS Regiment were privileged to host the Brigade event in memory of Neil Robertson. The CO of the MPS Regt led the inspection, and took time to speak to all competitors in to calm any pre-sticking nerves.

The Provost Sergeant Major, WO1 J Radcliffe, performed tasks as a member of the judging board for the first time within the Neil Robertson



**Runners-up - 1 RMP.**

Cup, performing his duties in a relaxed manner. Alongside the Provost Sergeant Major was the MPS Regiment's RSM, WO1 D Batterham, who led the judging board and oversaw the sizing of sticks,

The Competition was again blessed to welcome Mr Iain Robertson, brother of Neil Robertson, a late member of MPS Regt Family in whose name the competition was created. Mr Iain



**Detention Company.**

Robertson commented on his enjoyment of this year’s competition and hinted on potentially sticking in 2025.

**Teams Overview**

**Detention Company – MPS Regiment**  
 Detention Company had many different

changes in personnel leading up to the competition, this understandably was difficult for the team’s preparation. However once the teams were confirmed they became a fighting force. The team also had mixed experience, Sgt Uluilakeba (Lewie), a previous

competitor of the Neil Robertson Cup, led the team. He was a team member in the 2022 winning team when previously assigned in SCF Company. The love of sticking continued but further challenging himself as Driver/Captain. Marker Sgt K Yonzon, Sgt I



**Detention Company.**

# The Regiment



## Presentations to the winning team.

Gurung and Sgt P Limbu P, all entered as novices and preformed exceptionally well - individually and as a team.

### Ops/Training – MPS Regiment

Ops/Training team set-up had mixed ability. Sgt James (Tom) led this team with past experience of competing in pace-sticking and also judging, Sgt Johnson (Johno), a very experienced sticker who had been successful in past sticking competitions and as driver/captain in the 2023 competition, Johno generously passing the baton in allowing Sgt James (Tom) to drive/captain this year's team. Sgt Calver (Jack) competed in 2023 and it was great to see him re-enter for 2024. Cpl Sharp (Matt) competed not just in his first pace-sticking competition but also his first event within 1 MP Bde, a new member of MPS Regimental family it is commendable he spent many hours on the drill square practising individually as well as with his team, this practice paid off with him narrowly missing the award for best novice.

Overall OPS/Training's preparation had the right tempo, practising the right amount for performance level and good cohesion - it proved to be a winning combination as they came out the winning team.

### SCF Company – MPS Regiment

The team was built of mixed experience but embraced a relaxed ethos. Due to geographic restraints SCF Company

only had three days to practise together. With SSgt Baxter (Danny) who held experience in competing as part of the 2022 winning team, SSgt Bielefelo (Buff) led the team with Cpl Duncan (Kim) and Cpl Ross (Dan) both entering as novices. Considering their lack of time together and practise they showed no sign of pressure and it was good to see an element of continued enjoyment throughout, SCF Company performed well and can be happy with their overall scoring.

### 1 RMP

The team that was last to flap, a late entry that was not to be underestimated, 1 RMP were able to put together a team and travel to the MCTC all with a days' notice, in recent years 1 RMP have arrived well prepared and well practised, achieving runners-up in 2022 and successful individual awards in best sticker and best novice. This year 2024 although a team with very little time together they did not disappoint their team's past performances achieving runners-up, an accomplishment they should also be most happy with.

### 3 RMP

3 RMP arrived as mainly novices, however still prepared and with a good team ethos, the only team built up of only JNCOs and no member of their team a seasoned sticker, this did not dampen their spirits, and they competed very well. Being the most junior, most

inexperienced team and competing in front of a audience can be daunting, this did not deter 3 RMP displaying courage and discipline and they should be proud of their performance.

## Summary

With the heat at an all time high, a decision was made to drop the tradition of mass sticks - a custom of all competitors completing the pace-sticker sequence together under the command of a nominated sticker. It was decided the heat risk was too great but hopefully it will be reinstated for 2025. In the absence of mass sticks a new tradition was formed by encumbering the team ethos and spirit by having the first Neil Robertson Cup photo, with all teams, judging board and honoured guests together.

Overall this year's competition displayed a high standard of pace-sticking, embracing the team ethos and in the memory of Neil Robertson, thus achieved the competition's goal. It also showed growth, over the past three years since the competition was restarted following the pause during the pandemic. We saw novices enter, enjoyed the experience and re-enter... some pushing themselves in more leading commanding roles.

On a closing note, I have had the privilege of running the Neil Robertson Cup for the past three years, I have seen those who had never picked up a stick find a new passion and love of pace-sticking,



**Teams and, front centre, the judging panel and guest....Mr Ian Robertson, Lt Col C Carter MBE, WO1 (Pro SM) J Radcliffe, WO1 (RSM) Batterham.**

I have seen competitors return with an improved performance and skills. I have also had the additional privilege to judge and compete in separate events, with the additional bonus of being awarded Best Driver and Winning Team in the Neil Robertson Cup 2024. From all this I take great pride and thank all those who have supported this project,

The Neil Robertson Cup 2025 will be run by a different member of MPS Regimental Family, although they will have my assistance, advice and help. Additional help from every member of the MPS Regt, 1 MPS Bde and the AGC Corps can be provided by simply promoting this competition.

This will encourage all service people, from seasoned stickers dusting off their old pace-sticks, to encouraging the new generation of the military in pace-sticking surmounting a lasting love of this event they can attend for many more years. From this many more teams can be entered, and Neil Robertson Cup can continue to grow.

Finally the same question is again asked, Neil Robertson Cup seen Ops/ Training successful in Winning Team, but who will be Winning Team in 2025?

### Awards

**Winning Team:** OPS/Training (MPS Regt)

**Runners-up:** 1 RMP

**Best Driver:** Sgt James T (MPS Regt)

**Best Sticker:** Cpl Gaidel M (RMP)

**Best Novice:** Cpl Thomas (RMP)

### Judging Board

Pro Sergeant Major WO1 J Radcliffe  
AGC (RMP)

RSM WO1 D Batterham - MPS Regt

### Inspecting Officer

CO MPS Regt - Lt Col C Carter MBE

### Team Orbats

#### Detention Company

Driver: Sgt Uluilakeba S

Marker: Sgt Yonzon K

No3: Sgt Gurung I

No4: Sgt Limbu P

#### Ops/Training

Driver: Sgt James T

Marker: Sgt Johnson P

No3: Sgt Calver J

No4: Cpl Sharp M

### SCF Company

Driver: SSgt Bielefelo T

Marker: SSgt Baxter D

No3: Cpl Duncan K

No4: Cpl Ross D

### 1 RMP

Driver: SSgt McClellan V

Marker: Cpl Durkin A

No3: LCpl Moss L

No4: Cpl Gaidel M

### 3 RMP

Driver: Sgt Thomas

Marker: Cpl Nicholson

No3: Cpl McCrossan

No 4: Cpl Amidulla



**Detention Company.**

# The Regiment

## Field of Remembrance 2024



With one of the largest contingents for several years, members of the MPS Regiment, led by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Carter MBE and the Regiment's senior Warrant Officer, WO1 (RSM) Batterham, came together to pay their respects in a poignant remembrance parade at the Field of the Remembrance at Westminster on Saturday 9 November 2024.

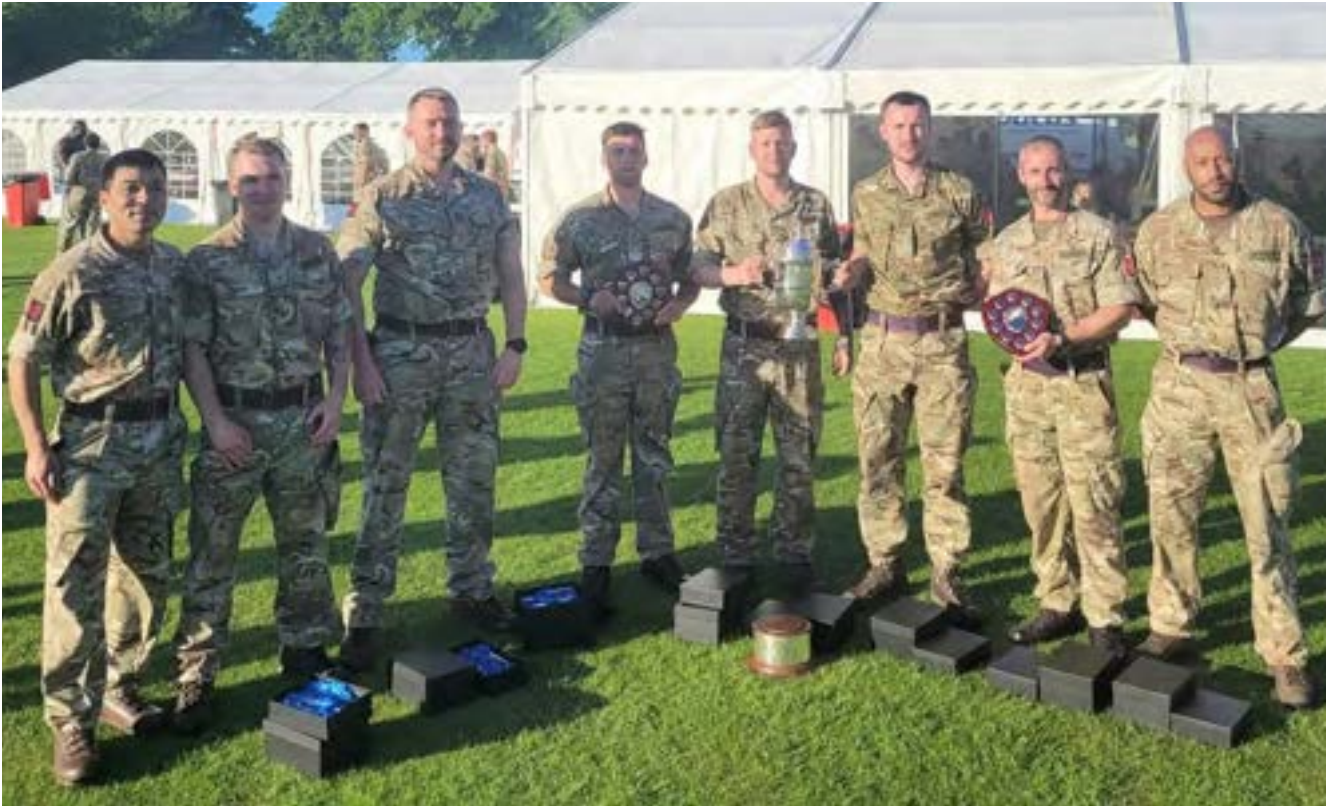
### Commanding Officer Handover

On 31 January 2024 we bade a fond farewell to Lt Col M Fielder RTR upon his handover and a warm welcome to the new Commanding Officer of the Military Provost Staff Regiment and Command MCTC, Lt Col C Carter MBE Lancs.





## AGC Triple Crown Champions



**A massive well done to the MPS Regiment Triple Crown team: WO2 Tamang, SSgt Issac, SSgt Walkington, SSgt Forde, SSgt Stapleton, Sgt Blewden, Sgt St Rose, Cpl Booth. Pure grit and determination pays off, this is the first time that the MPS Regiment has won the Triple Crown overall.**



# Detention Company

## A Year of Dedication and Resilience

As we reflect on the past year at the Military Corrective Training Centre, Detention Company has once again demonstrated unwavering professionalism and resilience in the face of numerous challenges. The men and women of this department have not only managed the daily complexities of overseeing detainees but have also contributed significantly to wider regimental activities, personal development, and the continued success of our unit.

**Managing Shortages and Maintaining Standards:** One of the most pressing challenges this year has been operating with a reduced workforce. Despite being short-staffed at times, our team has continued to perform at the highest standards, ensuring that detainees receive the appropriate structure and discipline necessary for their rehabilitation. The professionalism and teamwork displayed in maintaining order and discipline in such demanding circumstances is a testament to the dedication of our staff. Our ability to maintain operational effectiveness under these conditions is a source of great pride and reflects the strength of our department.

**Handling Challenging Detainees:** The nature of our role means we frequently encounter individuals with complex needs and behavioural challenges. This year has been no exception, and our team has risen to the occasion by employing de-escalation techniques, effective communication, and firm but fair discipline to manage even the most difficult detainees. The commitment to upholding the highest professional standards while maintaining a rehabilitative environment has not gone unnoticed and is integral to the success of our mission.

**Support for Wider Regimental Activity Overseas:** Beyond our responsibilities at the MCTC, members of Detention Company have played a vital role in supporting the Regiment's commitments overseas, be it on deployment to Estonia or the Falklands or exercise/training to Brunei, Germany and Norway to mention a few of our contributing expertise to allied forces, our personnel have exemplified professionalism and adaptability. These efforts have reinforced the importance of our department within the broader framework of military operations.

**Recognising Staff Achievements:** This year, several members of our team have excelled in various personal and professional pursuits. We are proud to acknowledge those who have pursued higher education, including those undertaking university courses to further develop their knowledge and leadership capabilities. Their dedication to self-improvement is an inspiration to us all.

Additionally, our personnel have represented the department and Regiment in sporting events, showcasing their commitment to fitness, discipline, and teamwork. Special recognition is due to those who have excelled in competitive sports and represented both our unit and the wider military community.

One particularly notable achievement was the representation of our department in the Brigade Commander's Competition, where Detention Company have supported the Regiment in coming first. Competing at such a high level requires exceptional discipline, teamwork, and precision, all of which reflect the core values we uphold within Detention Company.

Furthermore, we extend our congratulations to one of our colleagues who has undertaken training as an Army Mediator, a crucial role that enhances his ability to manage conflict resolution effectively. Their commitment to developing these skills not only benefits our internal operations but also strengthens our overall cohesion as a team, whilst becoming an asset to the Army.

**Adventurous Training:** We also acknowledge those who have taken part in adventurous training, an essential component of professional and personal development. These activities push individuals beyond their comfort zones, fostering resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills. Engaging in physically and mentally challenging environments prepares our personnel to face adversity with confidence and determination. The dedication shown by those participating in these exercises reflects the spirit of adventure and continuous improvement that strengthens both individuals and the wider team.

**Overseas Battlefield Tour:** An important milestone for our department this year was the participation in an overseas battlefield tour. This invaluable experience provided those attending with an opportunity to deepen their

understanding of military history, leadership under pressure, and the sacrifices made by those who came before us. It was a humbling and educational experience that reinforced the values of service, dedication, and resilience.

**Welcoming New Staff:** The strength of Detention Company lies in its people. Over the past year, we have welcomed new members to our ranks, ensuring that fresh talent continues to drive our mission forward. Their integration into the team has been seamless, thanks to the support and camaraderie of their colleagues. Detention Company has welcomed the following individuals, Sgt's Casey, Chassang, Collier, Garth, Kerslake, Limbu 57, Salami and Seruisavou on successful completion of the Detention Specialists Course. Sgt's Booth, Carr, Rainima, Suluma and Tittle on promotion. SSgt's Hayward and Uda on assignment. We have also welcomed back Sgt's Ratumaitavuki and Ratukalou on continuance and are glad to have their experience alongside the newer members of staff

**Farewell to Departing Colleagues:** At the same time, we have bid farewell to some outstanding individuals who have moved on to new challenges and opportunities. Their contributions have left a lasting impact, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their service and dedication. We wish them every success in their future endeavours. SSgt Langford and Sgt Scarlett on promotion to WO2 and SSgt, SSgt Stapleton, Sgt's Harland, Hobson, Fenn and Rai 31 on assignment. SSgt Rai 04, Sgt's Fletcher, Nuku and Rogan on successful completion of colour service.

**Looking Ahead:** As we move forward into another year, Detention Company remains committed to upholding the highest standards of discipline, professionalism, and rehabilitation. The challenges we face will only serve to strengthen our resolve, and with the continued dedication of our team, we will undoubtedly rise to meet them.

To every member of Detention Company—thank you for your hard work, resilience, and commitment. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and together, we will continue to uphold the proud traditions of our unit.

# Security & Reception Dept

## Reflecting on the Past Year: Security and Reception Department

by Sgt Hamish Newbatt, Dog Handler MPS Regiment

The last 12 months have brought notable changes to the Security and Reception department, with a mix of staff transitions, retirements, and new arrivals shaping the team.

It's been a year of farewells, promotions, and memorable experiences. Sgt Sabin and Sgt Shiva Gurung enjoyed a break from routine with their deployment on Dragon Leadership AT in sunny Cyprus. Their return was marked by a bittersweet farewell to Sgt Shiva Gurung, who completed his military service and departed in July 2024.

Sgt Leigh Parker, on the other hand, has spent much of his year on the water with the AGC fishing team. Despite his dedication, I hear he's yet to land a catch—better luck next year, Sgt Parker! July also saw WO2 Paul Furlong, previously HQ CSM, take on the position of RCMWO. Meanwhile, PO Gareth Miles bid us an early farewell, returning to the Royal Navy after a brief 14-month posting at MCTC.

Sgt Sombahadur Thapa Singjali departed alongside him, completing his colour service. In November 2024, Sgt Alexander Naylor earned a well-deserved promotion to SSgt and was posted to SCF Midland and Wales. As part of the team's refresh, we welcomed Capt Colin Vella as HQ OC and WO2 Kelson Ollivierre as HQ CSM into Reception.

Our canine team member, MWD Sefer, has had an active year, supporting various search tasks within 1 MP Brigade, and participating in joint training exercises with HMP dog handlers—a valuable contribution to the team's overall success.

Reflecting on the year, it's clear the department has adapted well to these changes, continuing to perform at a high standard. As we move forward, I wish everyone—whether staying, leaving, or joining—a bright and prosperous future.



Sgt Hamish Newbatt and MWD Sefer 6740.

# Operations and Training Company

## Operations Platoon / Readiness Package



**Sgt Peters – MALBATT 16 – Teaching the Malawi Defence Force (MDF).**

Operations and Training Company (Ops and Trg Coy) reflect on the significant strides made within the Military Provost Staff Regiment this year.

Our commitment to ensuring our Force Elements at Readiness are at the requisite state of readiness to support NATO and the Field Army has driven us to introduce an innovative new training package that addresses crucial operational needs.

At the heart of this training package is our bespoke instruction on Joint Doctrine Publication (JDP) 1-10

and the wider doctrine for Captured Persons. This training has been instrumental in equipping our personnel with the necessary knowledge and skills to handle captured persons in compliance with established protocols. Understanding these frameworks not only enhances our operational efficiency but also reinforces our adherence to legal and ethical standards. In addition to this, Ops and Trg Coy have placed a strong emphasis on the Geneva Conventions, reinforcing our commitment to humanitarian

principles during military operations. The additional training in this area has ensured that every member of our team is well-versed in their responsibilities regarding the treatment of captured persons, fostering a culture of respect and dignity.

A notable aspect of our training this year has been the focus on the Captured Person's estimate process. We have conducted war gaming/red teaming exercises and implemented the seven questions estimate process to provide assurance to the Field Army

regarding captured persons' activities. This intensive training has enhanced our collective analytical capabilities and decision-making processes, allowing us to anticipate challenges and devise effective strategies in complex operational environments. The war gaming/red teaming sessions have proven particularly valuable, as they simulate real-world scenarios that our personnel may face if mobilised to support current readiness commitments. By engaging in these exercises, we have not only improved our tactical proficiency but also strengthened our teamwork and communication skills. The seven questions estimate process has provided a structured approach to evaluating situations involving captured persons, ensuring that we are prepared to respond decisively and appropriately.

The dedication and professionalism displayed by our personnel provide grounds to be optimistic about the future. The training initiatives undertaken by the Ops and Trg Company this year have not only prepared us to meet the demands of our mission but have also solidified our role as a vital component of the Field Army.

In addition to the new training syllabus, we have seen the implementation of a new Operations Platoon ORBAT that has significantly enhanced our operational capabilities. This restructure includes dedicated staff specifically tasked with covering worldwide deployments in alignment with the requirements of the 1 MP Brigade Readiness Order and the Army Operating order. As a result, our regiment has been able to provide robust support across a staggering 26 exercise/operations globally, including in Estonia, Norway, Germany, Brunei, Cyprus, Spain, Malawi, the UK, and the Falkland Islands, to name a few. This extensive reach showcases our commitment to operational readiness and the versatility of our personnel, who are prepared to respond swiftly and effectively to a variety of exercises and operations. The establishment of the new Ops Platoon is a testament to our dedication to fulfilling the demands of our mission while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and effectiveness in the field.

*...our Regiment has been able to provide robust support across a staggering 26 exercises/operations globally ...*

#### **DUS Training**

It would be necessary to highlight the significant advancements made in the development of Detainees Under Sentence (DUS) at the Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC). This year, DUS have embarked on a comprehensive 12-week training programme designed not only to enhance their skills but also to prepare them for reintegration into military service as valuable assets.

Throughout the program, detainees have engaged in a variety of structured training activities, including delivering structured presentations. This component has been particularly impactful, as it fosters communication skills and self-confidence, empowering detainees to articulate their thoughts effectively. In addition to this, they have received hands-on training within the Detainee Combat Training Centre (DCCT), whilst also focusing on essential skills such as Skill at Arms, Navigation, and Counter Explosive Ordnance training. The programme culminated in a series of skills house combat training exercises, which providing a realistic and challenging environment for practical application.

The structure of the training has incorporated both theoretical and practical lessons, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience. A notable highlight was the two-week focus on the Orders process, where detainees learned to deliver a full set

of orders. This aspect of the training not only enhances their understanding of military operations but also instils a sense of responsibility and leadership.

Furthermore, DUS completed the Right Turn Programme, aimed at teaching them core principles relating to leadership and responsibility. Additionally, they conduct community engagement projects within the local community. Of note, they have conducted volunteer work at Hawk Farm, a project run by Phoenix Heroes, aimed at helping veterans in the community. They have also helped at Fingringhoe ranges, helping other volunteers plant an orchard.

The commitment of the MCTC Training Wing to rehabilitate Detainees Under Sentence is commendable. By equipping them with essential skills and knowledge, we are preparing them to return to their units not just as soldiers, but as improved individuals who have learned from their experiences.

This approach to rehabilitation emphasises our belief in second chances and the potential for growth, ultimately benefiting the broader military community.

The dedication to developing the skills of Detainees Under Sentence is a testament to our values and the belief that every service member has the potential to contribute meaningfully to our mission.

Overall, a very positive year for Ops and Trg Company and we look forward to what 2025 brings.

# HQ PM (A) Detention and Custody Team

*Maj Becky Smith, Capt Joe Hancock, WO1 Brendan Luke, 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; WO1 Brendan Luke joined us in May 2024, hoping for a slightly less hectic tempo to that which his previous role as the MPS Regiment RCMWO afforded him, his aspirations were soon shattered as he was straight out of the door to conduct the annual licensing inspections of the SCF's in Brunei and Estonia!

Capt Colin Vella handed over the SO3 Custody and Detention reigns to Capt Joe Hancock in Sept 2024 and together with myself and SSgt McHenry providing the continuity the team have been 'knees to chest' conducting various activity in the UK and overseas throughout.

Following the success of the NATO Operational Detention Forum in 2023, June saw the HQ PM(A) Custody and Detention team deploy to Poznan in Poland alongside a dedicated team from the NATO Military Police Centre of excellence (COE) to deliver the second inaugural NATO Operational Detention Forum. The Forum was attended by 63

delegates from 19 Nations, along with representatives from the ICRC and Red Cross and was once again a resounding success and recognised the expertise held by the UK and PM(A) in the area of operational detention.

Our work within NATO does not stop there; Maj Smith has the pivotal role as writing team lead for the development of a NATO Detention Operation Handbook and regularly deploys overseas to attend the Military Police Panel as part of the working group who meet regularly to review and update various NATO doctrine.

WO1 Luke has spent most of his time travelling both within the UK and overseas, to conduct annual Service Custody Inspection and Licensing (SCIL) visits of all UK and overseas Service Custody Premises. When not on the road he is busy leading the much needed review and re-write of the JSP 837.

The increase in recognition by wider defence of the importance and requirement for operational detention training has continued to see an increase in requests for the HQ PM(A) C&D team, in particular SSgt McHenry, 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 Hancock's primary roles is to validate any CPERS training activity including the training delivered by the MPS Regiment as part of Operation INTERFLEX. SSgt McHenry has also been instrumental in the development and production of a CPERS handling video which is now used as part of the training package for CPERS handling training on Operation INTERFLEX.

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 MyZone and Competitions

*Sgt (SI) Baird RAPTC*

#### MyZone

From March – August 2024, the MPS Regiment conducted a trial where MPS Regiment Service Personnel were issued a MyZone Heart Rate monitor. A great success, it saw a significant improvement in fitness, against a demanding forecast of events where the MPS Regiment was deployed on various tasks globally.

Initial deploy ability status 54% (March 2024), current 76% (Aug 2024).

A highly visible and popular empowerment initiative at minimal cost. This trial has improved the fitness and motivation of the Regiment. It also provided a smaller ability range during PT, so sessions can be better targeted.

#### Competitions

**AGC Cricket:** Sgt Lund has represented the AGC cricket team throughout the season in both the 50 overpower cup and T20 Inter Corps competition.

**AGC Golf:** Sgt Lund has represented the AGC Golf team in several inter Corps fixtures throughout the year. He has also competed in several Army competitions and Army regional competitions including represent the Southeast. He has also represented 1 MP Brigade in the inter Corps match. He also attended an overseas tour to the North of France with the AGC.

**BDFPA Powerlifting European Competition Dublin:** I'm delighted to announce that the competition went incredibly well. I successfully won the BDFPA's European Bench press competition in my category; all lifts went smoothly. I am now 4 kg away from a Bench press world record in this federation, that I am aiming to achieve in the new year. *(Cpl Panton)*

**Army Powerlifting Bench Press Kent, 30 October 2024:** Winning socks are on! Achieved "Best female in weight category" (I was the only female at this weight – that's ok!). The better award I achieved yesterday for the 2nd year running: "Best overall female", above all the other competing females in the other categories.

World record for bench press will be gained at the civilian competitions in the near future. This year so far, I have successfully won BDFPA division, UK National, Worlds, European's, retaining record holder for North Midlands (All civilian). My coach can see my potential in this sporting discipline regardless of my age, and that's all that counts.

Today is a good day, happy suit is on. And I intend to celebrate later with a tub of Ben and Jerry's Caramel Chew Chew.



The Army's National Charity

Photographer: Murray Kerr. © Crown Copyright

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ABF The Soldiers' Charity is the Army's national charity, here for soldiers, former soldiers and their families for life.

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**60,000**

INDIVIDUALS &

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# Regimental Sport



**Dave Kerr did it and coached the Army American football team to victory. They are now Tri-Service champions. A huge congratulations from the Regiment.**

## Rugby Sevens

Another year rolls around and it's time to head to Southwick Park to represent the Military Provost Staff Regiment (MPS Regt) at Police Rugby 7's tournament.

After losing in the final last year, it was our ambition to recapture the trophy that we won the year previous. Leading up to the tournament, we were apprehensive about missing a key player in SSgt White due to injury at scrum half, however we had recruited well and had stumbled across an ex-Samurai 7's scrum half in Sgt Seruisavou. On initial arrival, it was clear to see that the tournament wasn't as well attended as previous years.

There were only 4 teams in a group. The top team of each group would play in the final and the 2nd placed team would complete for the plate.

Our first game was finally here, we were feeling confident, having had a good couple of days training prior to arriving at Southwick Park. We started well and it was clear to see that we were a well drilled outfit. We controlled the game well, keeping hold of the ball and spreading their defence. Great play between Sgt Seruisavou, Cpl Tuca and Cpl Rainima, between themselves they played a number of passes thundering towards the try.

The Fijian brute force and quick hands got them to the line where Cpl Rainima was able to put us 5:0 up, however it was in a difficult position to be able to convert the conversion. We continued to control the game before

spreading the ball wide for SSgt Forde to receive a well-executed pass, on the left wing on their own 20m line, with 2 opponents breathing down his neck. A quick sidestep right and fake pass left leaving them bamboozled as to where he'd gone. He applied the afterburners and stormed down the length of the pitch at the speed of a thousand gazelles to place the ball under the sticks. In the second half the game had slowed down, and we were 12-5 up.

We continued to control the game but at a slower pace. This led the opposition players into a false sense of security as Sgt McGavin received the ball, out wide, he took the unorthodox method and stepped inside as opposed to outside, he came to a complete stop before stepping back outside which left his defender on the floor before sprinting for a try under the posts. Sgt Rigby came on for his first game of Rugby. Initially he looked like a child chasing the ball.

He grew into the game and his energy proved to be vital. The opponents broke away, Sgt Rigby chased after them ensuing they scored a try in the corner with a difficult kick to make, so pose to under the posts with an easy conversion. First game, first victory and importantly, no injuries, 19-5.

Our second game rolled around, and we went into the game confident after our first win. We were playing against the Military Defence Police (MDP) who had performed well in their first game. This was a much tougher game. From early

on, we could see they were well drilled and that this would be a difficult game. We started the game well, however MDP took an early lead after a well-executed kick and chase. Despite trailing, we were playing with confidence and showing our ability to dictate the game and keep control.

After Cpl Rainima stepped his defender, leaving him bewildered, he strode forward with ease before sending the ball back inside to Sgt Seruisavou who threw in a fake pass before sending it back the way it came from to Cpl Tuca. Cpl Tuca sent it out wide to SSgt Forde who drove forward before being tackled and popping to ball up to Cpl Tuca who maintained momentum and offloaded to Cpl Rainima. The ball went all the way across the pitch to Sgt Ratumaitavuki who thundered for the line wearing scrum cap, his bushy eyebrows and beard making him look even more intimidating than usual.

We went in at half time at 7:7. The second half started, and it was much the same as the first half, two strong rugby teams playing some amazing rugby and matching each other. They received the ball and were heading for the line, Sgt Rigby however, had other ideas and put in a massive couple of tackles to halt their progress. The game was too close to call, and it was looking like it was going to end 7:7 when they put a few quick passes together and had found their way to the touch line. We knew there wasn't long left and if we



didn't want to lose this game, we had to do something quickly. There was a flurry of quick passes put together by Sgt Ratumaitavuki, Sgt Seruisavou, Cpl Tuca and Cpl Rainima. Showing the Fijian magic, they expertly worked their way to the line before Sgt Seruisavou was able to put the ball down to level the scores at 12:12. Second game, 1 win, 1 draw and no injuries 12:12.

Our final group game saw us needing a win to give us the best opportunity of winning the group and gaining our place in the final. We again started the game well, great hands and spreading the ball from side to side, trying to create an opening for ourselves. This eventually came when we spread the ball to the right-hand side of the pitch with the forwards before unleashing a series of rapid passes out wide, finding Sgt Rigby all on his own with acres of space to run into. He opened up his legs and sprinted towards the try line. You could see the excitement in his face, as this was his first-time playing rugby as he hesitantly placed the ball under the middle of the posts for an easy conversion. He took the kick himself and expertly slotted it between the posts to put us into a 7:0 lead.

After a tumbled catch, the opposition picked up the loose ball and sprinter down the pitch. Sgt Rigby, however chased them into the corner which made it difficult for them to make the conversion. This left us going into the halftime break at 7:5. The second half didn't start well for us, we found ourselves training 10:7 very early on. We needed some of that Fijian magic to help us regain control of the game. We had a line out and the referee had called 'last play'.

It was now or never for the MPS. The management team decided it to send Sgt McGavin on to 'catch and run' and hopefully we would get the try that we needed to. Upon entering the pitch, Sgt McGavin told SSgt Forde that as soon as he gets the ball run, do not pass until you need to, and we will get there. The ball was won from our line out, we were off to a good start. The ball was expertly moved down the line quickly, however SSgt Forde received the ball still in his own half. What he did next was about to potentially win us the game.

Upon receiving the ball, he set off at the speed of light towards the try line. He crossed the halfway line, and he was still going, approaching the 22, looking around there were no other MPS players around except Sgt McGavin. Still SSgt Forde drove forward into the 22 where he was expertly tackled. Sgt McGavin screamed for him to pop him the ball which he did. Still with quite a bit to do and no support at this time, Sgt McGavin

drove for the line evading the tackles from two defenders, under the posts and this was it, we had not only narrowly just avoided defeat, we were under the posts for an easy kick, which would turn out to be crucial in getting to the final. Third game finished, 2 wins, 1 draw, no injuries 14:10.

We had done all we could, it was now time to wait and hope that results went our way so that we were competing for the trophy and not the plate. After all the games had finished, it was too close to call and none of us were sure we had done enough to win the group, it was definitely going to come down to the wire. Capt Woolley and SSgt Hayward went over to the scoring tent to see if we had done enough.

After it became clear that the scoring tent wasn't entirely sure how it was meant to be scored, SSgt Hayward explained the sequence in how things come into play in the event of tied points. I would love to explain it, however I'm not sure myself. However, what I can tell you is that it came down to that final last second conversion. The MPS were in the final and were playing against the RAF Police.

The final was here and more importantly the MPS Regt was here for a 3rd successive year. We didn't start well; we were on the back foot and defending deep into our 22. They had the momentum, and we were defending for our lives. After making a tackle after failing to retreat the require distance Sgt McGavin received a yellow card. This meant that we were playing with 6 men for the next 2 minutes, which turned out to be over 3. For the next 3 minutes, the MPS Regt kept the ball expertly, not moving forward but not giving up possession.

It was without a doubt, the best rugby to be played all day. The ball went from left to right, right to left. Stringing pass after pass together, making it look easy. Eventually the ball went out of play for an opposition lineout. Sgt McGavin, eager to make up for his mistake sprinted on and took up his position on the opposite wing. The MPS Regt won the line out and spread the ball down the line where Sgt McGavin received the ball. Before he knew what had happened, he was in a heap on the floor and had let out an almighty shout. The referee stopped the game and Sgt McGavin said he needed to get off the pitch. Capt Woolley was there offering McGavin assistance, to which he replied, 'I'm ok boss, I'll just roll off' and proceeded to sausage roll the 1 meter he was away from the side line. Now he was off the pitch, the game could continue, and it was our time to regain the trophy he had lost the year previous.

The RAF Police were by far the best

team we had played today, and they were capable of spreading the ball and playing just as well as we could. After expertly working a hole in our defence, they are away and over the line under the posts to put themselves 7:0 up. This was a more than capable MPS Regt team that believed we could win though. We put a series of passes together in the middle of the park. Inching our way towards the 22.

We could see the try line, it was just a matter of getting there now. The ball broke to Sgt James who bit down on his gum shield and drove for the try line. A tackle was attempted on the line; however, Sgt James face palmed him off and was over the line to get us the try to get us back into the game. The half time whilst went and we went in 7:5 down. We knew we had to come out aggressively in the second half if we wanted to beat this good outfit.

The second half started, and we again were on the back foot. They broke for the line and put us 14:5 down. We definitely had our work cut out for us now! We needed at least two tries now, or that was it, he had come so far and narrowly missed out again. We got control of the game and maintained it well. Spreading the ball, trying to force an opening to exploit, but these were a good opposition, and the openings just were coming. Sgt Seruisavou worked himself free in the centre of the pitch and broke the line.

He was away, but his legs ran out and he was caught up. He attempted to stay on his feet for as long as possible for his support players to arrive. Sgt Ratumaitavuki arrived putting in a big hit which enabled us to get more support players up. We maintained possession and we were in their 22. We worked a play we had been practicing before, which left us with some space to run into. It was Fijian magic time again, Sgt Ratumaitavuki, Sgt Seruisavou, Cpl Tuca and Cpl Rainima combined well to work a space to send the ball out to Sgt Lawa to put the ball under the posts for a really well worked try. It was now 14:12 and time was running out. The next few minutes seemed to fly by for us, but probably felt like an eternity for our opposition. The game was a really cagy affair, as no one wanted to make a mistake that would effectively end the game for their team. Unfortunately, the game came to an end, and we had lost 14:12. Final game, 2 wins, 1 draw, 1 defeat and 1 fractured ankle and fractured fibular for Sgt McGavin.

A massive thank you to the coaching and support team of Capt Woolley, SSgt Hayward, SSgt Kapaiwai and SSgt White, who without, it wouldn't have been possible to compete and preform as well as we did.

# Regimental News

## Military Provost Staff Regiment King's Coronation Medals Parade 21 November 2024



On 21 November 2024 the Military Provost Staff Regiment held their King's Coronation medals parade at the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester.

Due to the dispersed nature of the Regiment the MPS had found it difficult to get a large contingent of the Regiment together to make this event truly special. It was decided earlier in the year the medals parade would coincide with two other key events - the Professional Training Week and the MPS Regiment's annual dinner night in memory of our founder, Lt Col MC Garsia.

The Regiment managed to get more than 60 personnel from the Regiment on parade, which was a huge achievement in itself, as there had not been anything conducted like this in well over a decade.

The MPS Regiment also had the pleasure of welcoming the Lord Lieutenant of Essex on the parade, who had very kindly agreed to present the medals as the King's delegate. His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Essex is Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst, the first woman to be appointed to the office in the county since it was established in the 1500s. She is His Majesty the King's personal representative in the county. The main duty of the Lord-Lieutenant is to uphold



the dignity of the Crown.

The Lord Lieutenant spoke to all members of the parade and also delivered a speech on the history of the medal and why it was so important to mark the occasion.

It is worthy of note the MPS Regiment had only managed to achieve one rehearsal prior to the day due to the Regiment being split across the country.

You would never have guessed this was the case as the parade went without any issues and the drill delivered by the troops was of a very high standard.

Post parade, the officers and the Lord Lieutenant retired to the Officers' Mess for lunch, where the Lord Lieutenant had the opportunity to converse with key members of the Regiment. A very enjoyable day.



# Regimental News

## Garsia Night November 2024: A Celebration of Legacy and Achievement

*by Sgt Tudor*



On Thursday, 21 November 2024, Garsia Night was held, marking a significant occasion in the calendar of the Military Provost Staff. This year's event boasted one of the largest turnouts in recent years, reflecting the strong sense of community and camaraderie within the Regiment. The event serves not only as a gathering but also as a tribute to Lt Col Michael Clare Garsia, the founding father of the Military Provost Staff Corps, (now MPS) whose legacy continues to inspire current and future generations.

The evening commenced with a warm welcome to all attendees, who were treated to a delightful three-course meal prepared by the talented Sodexo staff. The culinary experience was complemented by the enchanting melodies of a military band that played throughout the evening, creating a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere. The combination of good food and music set the perfect backdrop for an evening of reflection, recognition, and revelry.

Among the distinguished guests were Brig Pringle-Smith, Provost Marshal Army and WO1 Radcliffe, the Provost Sergeant Major. Their presence underscored the importance of the event and the respect held for the traditions





of the Regiment. The evening also welcomed three Chelsea Pensioners, Mr Swan, Mr Chalkey and Mr Williams, all of whom added to the rich tapestry of the gathering.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of two exceptional individuals through dine-outs. Maj (Retd) Corcoran was honoured for his extensive contributions to the Regiment

over the years, having provided invaluable guidance and support to staff and fellow members. Similarly, SSgt Rai was celebrated for completing his colour service, marking a significant milestone



# Regimental News



in his military career. These tributes served as a reminder of the dedication and commitment that define the spirit of the Regiment.

The awards ceremony was another focal point of the evening. Cpl Jiwan Gurung was awarded the Lord Monkswell

award for his significant contributions over the past year, highlighting the importance of recognising the hard work and dedication of all members.

Sgt Sam Tudor received The Garsia Sword, an accolade that honours the sergeant who has made the most

notable contributions in the past year. His achievements reflect the values of leadership and service that are central to the ethos of the Regiment. In a delightful twist, Sgt Tudor also took on the role of Mr Vice for the evening, entertaining the attendees with a series of humorous





paper plate awards. His light-hearted approach brought laughter and joy to the gathering, showcasing the camaraderie that exists within the Regiment.

As the evening ended, the sense of unity and pride among the attendees was palpable. Garsia Night 2024 not only celebrated the legacy of Lt Col Garsia but also reinforced the bonds of friendship and mutual respect that define the Military Provost Staff. It was a night filled with laughter, recognition, and a shared commitment to the values that continue to guide the Regiment forward. The success of the evening serves as a reminder of the importance of coming together to remember, honour the present, while looking ahead to a bright future.



# Regimental News

## DSC 243 6 May to 22 August 2024



Back from left: Sgt L Garth, Cpl R Rai, Sgt L Casey, Sgt S Kerslake, Cpl P Collier, Bdr J Dixon. Front: Sgt J Limb, Cpl B Tovee, WO1 (RSM) D Batterham, Regt 2IC Maj R Moffat (Lead DSC Instr) Sgt T James, LCpl K Cocker, Cpl P Budha-Magar,





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# SCF North

*by Cpl Bacon*

The year 2024 proved to be a busy year at the SCF North, at the same time, a challenging year with many tasks alongside our day-to-day job.

Nevertheless, SCF North continued to remain resolute and maintain its core role, which is to provide custody capability in the Northern Region of the UK.

Throughout this year, the SCF North Team has continued to deliver Operation INTERFLEX, Operation CARRIAGE and support other SCFs alongside conducting the wider Regimental requirements and taskings such as SOI and JSP rewrites.

With all that said, we have still managed to find space in the calendar for sports, charity events, and overseas battlefield study opportunities for our team to partake in, achieving much success in their chosen sports.

Our team had a presence at the Garsia Dinner Night in November 2024, it is a chance to see fellow MPS personnel and presents a different opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months within the Regiment.



**Service Custody Facility (SCF) North Team (missing Sgt Kyme and Cpl Panton).**

## Charity King’s Church Food Bank (Darlington)

*by Cpl Bacon*

On Wed 19 June 2024, Staff from SCF North went to assist at King’s Church Food Bank in Darlington. Caroline was their lead POC there and she was very helpful guiding us all to task. Our IC has been there before, and it was great to re-establish his links with them.

It was our chance to give back to the

local community in need. Tasks involved finalising boxes for individuals and issuing their goods to them followed by preparing the next turnout of boxes for individuals due on Friday with food stacking checks.

It was a great reminder of how fortunate we are and a real chance to

help others. I want to thank Staff at SCF North for coming along to support and their participation and for those left back to cover the facility, great team effort overall. SCF North are looking to head back with their busiest days on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.



**King’s Church Food Bank (Darlington) Team.**



## Charity Supporting the Paras: Paras' 10 Catterick 2024

On Saturday 28 September 2024, two members of staff from SCF North, SSgt Bielefelo and Cpl Boggs, took on the gruelling Paras' 10 competition held annually at Catterick Garrison.

We had deliberated on this enduring and mentally challenging task earlier in the year and chose to take on the tradition of our facility's participation in this event from previous years. In my role as team captain, I designed a training program a month in advance to ensure that we were sufficiently conditioned and prepared for the event.

A bit of history about the Paras' 10 event and its significance....established in 1982 by WO1 JJ Wilson, the primary purpose of the event is to raise funds for veterans across the nation and promote overall good health and well-being through intense physical activity. With an increasing number of competitors challenging themselves each year, the event has seen consistent growth.

The race itself - The Paras' 10 is based on the '10 miler', which is the first event of the Parachute Regiment's P-Company Test Week for selection. The 10-mile march is conducted as a squad over undulating terrain with each candidate carrying a bergen (backpack) weighing 35lb (plus water) and a weapon. To pass this test and move on through test week, aspiring paratroopers must complete the march in 1hour 50min or less.

Overall, this event pushed our physical and mental resilience to the limit and provided a fantastic opportunity to gauge the robustness and mental fortitude required for success in passing P-Company and earning the



**SSgt Bielefelo and Cpl Boggs.**

coveted maroon beret.

As a soldier, I firmly believe that one's military career should be anchored in being as physically and mentally robust as possible to address any challenge that may arise, both in their occupation and in life, and to act appropriately. This challenge thoroughly tested our physical and mental strength, and I am pleased to

report that we both emerged unscathed and can take pride in our performance.

Looking ahead, the SCF North team is already plotting for upcoming challenges and events, each of which will only serve to strengthen our team cohesion. We eagerly anticipate what 2025 has in store for us.

Wishing everyone the best for 2025.

## Ex Corradino Escape 2024

*by SSgt Bielefelo*

Mon 16 Sept 24 marked the beginning of an extraordinary journey as sixteen members of the MPS Regiment, alongside the Reserve Company, embarked on a thought-provoking Battlefield Study known as Ex CORRADINO ESCAPE on the island of Malta.

The MPS Regiment Battlefield Study was designed to enhance doctrinal knowledge and understanding of the historical WWII operation, while also strengthening the team cohesion and ethos of the MPS Regiment.

I had the privilege of being part of the

team representing the MPS Regiment for this Battlefield Study, accompanied by Cpl Taberner from SCF North. Anticipation ran high as we eagerly awaited this valuable opportunity, which not only offered us a welcome reprieve from work but also a much-needed break from the office environment.

The primary objective of this Battlefield Study was to explore key WWII sites, with a specific focus on operational detention and prisoner-of-war handling. This enlightening journey also featured a visit and group

discussion on the history of the Military Provost Staff Corps (MPSC) stationed at Corradino Military Prison.

Throughout the study, our attention was drawn to the sites that held Prisoners of War (POWs) and internees during WWI and WWII. We delved into their historical treatment during both wars, visiting key landmarks such as Corradino Prison, Lascaris War Rooms, the Malta at War Museum, and the remnants of Fort Verdala. Additionally, we examined the strategic significance of Malta in both wars and its connection

# SCF North



## SSgt Bielefelo and Cpl Rainima Ex Corradino Escape 2024.

to the success of the operations launched from the island.

This unique experience provided a deeper understanding of historical events and the impactful role of Malta in wartime operations, fostering a greater appreciation for the historical significance of the places we visited. In hindsight, it was a remarkable

opportunity to witness first-hand the historical context of wartime events, offering insights that will undoubtedly shape my perspective in the days to come.

This first-hand experience with this Battlefield Study in Malta not only broadened my understanding of the island's history, but also provided a

unique opportunity to learn about the historical events that transpired there.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to those who organised this significant event, ensuring it was both successful and enjoyable. I look forward to the prospect of participating in another such event next year.

“Bellissima Malta

## Sports Army Powerlifting Union Bench Press

*by Cpl Panton*

My powerlifting journey started last year when I (Cpl Panton) attended an Army Powerlifting Union Bench Press competition at Gamecock Barracks in May 2023. I won Best Lift, Most Lifted, and Best Overall Female with Coach Cpl Kerri Davis.

From there, I continued competing in BDFPA competitions to gain experience and strength in this discipline, including the European competition held in London in 2023, where I was spotted by an Irish coach named Reg.

He was astonished by my performance and natural strength, and he insisted that he provide coaching remotely alongside Cpl Davis to generate the best results. I continued attending BDFPA competitions in 2024, which proved to be beneficial.

I won the Horncastle Division Bench



**Cpl Panton - Army Powerlifting Union Bench Press.**

Press in January 2024, gaining 1st place in the M1 category and 1st place in my weight category. This win earned me the title of the new record holder for North Midlands in the M1 category. After attending a qualifying competition in Colchester in February 2024, I won 1st place in the M1 category, which gained me entry to the UK Nationals held in Horncastle. Having attended RAF training camps and civilian competitions, there was always room for development by listening to professional tips from some extremely keen athletes in the sport.

The UK Nationals competition gave me a sense of achievement as my mum, sisters, niece, and nephews, along with several friends, all attended to watch this event, as none of us had ever been to an

event as big as this one, either to spectate or take part. I had never competed at such a level before. At the UK Nationals, I placed a worthy 1st in the M1 category in Bench Press in March 2024. I was over the moon with the result. My 10-year-old niece said to me, "You're the strongest aunty in the world!" My reply was, "As long as I'm the strongest aunty in your world, that's all that counts."

Reg, the coach, suggested I gain some body weight to enable me to push some bigger iron for the next competition—I did not mind eating a few extra doughnuts! That is when I realized there were still some beans left in this vintage motor! The win at the Nationals gained me entry to the World Championships in Amsterdam, where I placed 1st in the M1 category and 2nd

place in my weight category. It was a solid year, focusing on pure strength and following the guidance from the coaches.

The training has given me personal drive, wanting to push myself to see what can be achieved. The training can be long and tiring, though I have loved it. The support from the MPS regiment has been gratefully welcomed, along with funding from AGC to ease entry fees. I am aiming for a world record within this federation in the near future. This has been an enjoyable journey, and I am still breaking records. It never fails to amaze me what you can achieve when you have a goal: "When the why is strong, the how is easy." - John Rohn.

After another year of team growth and self-improvement, we look forward to future challenges.

## Military Service Steward (MSS) Wimbledon 2024

by *Cpl Bacon*

As a keen tennis player, I have been selected throughout my career to represent the Army and Corps at that Sport, alongside the opportunity to Steward at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. I have to say it is a highlight of my year for sure and the reason is because Wimbledon is one of the most prestigious Sporting Events in the world. Overall, it is a great honour and privilege to be there for the entire Championships. There is a sense of community for returners, so we can pass on our experience and knowledge to the newcomers and welcome them in.

There are many roles within the Wimbledon Service Steward set up, as you could be Stewarding on Centre Court or the Royal Box VIP areas or No. 1 Court to name a few. Since 2021 I moved to work in the Royal Box VIP areas where you could meet and greet VIP Guests such as Royalty / Celebrities / Valued members of the Community that have been nominated. It is also nice to interact with the public and a great



**Cpl Bacon - Military Service Steward (MSS) Wimbledon 2024).**

chance to meet fellow Armed Forces Tennis Players across all 3 Services for a catch up as well. A normal day as a Wimbledon Service Steward is to be there for your morning brief at 0930 then the day can finally commence at 1000, where you could finish around 1830 or when play finishes depending on your

shift pattern but do not worry, we all get enough breaks. As I enjoy it a lot, I cannot wait to be back next year hoping my selection is a success again as it is highly likely to be but aware nothing is guaranteed until my confirmation comes through, I also appreciate the Regiments support for me to attend again in 2025.

## Exercise WESSEX STORM 2024

by *Cpl Taberner*

Within seven months posting to the SCF North, I had the privilege to volunteer and was fortunate enough to be selected to represent the MPS Regiment for Ex WESSEX STORM 2024.

Ex WESSEX STORM is one of the

largest exercises for our UK Armed Forces to integrate with our NATO Allies. The exercise itself is four weeks long and was conducted at the Salisbury Training Area consisting of 1,500 exercise troops.

The primary intent of the exercise is for (Operational Readiness Commitment) envisaging the preparedness of our troops and equipment for potential future operation, whether within the UK or abroad. Beyond this overarching

# SCF North

objective, the exercise encompassed various phases, incorporating scenarios such as attack in built-up areas, vehicle manoeuvres, live firing, and airborne operation.

My role as an MPS Detention Specialist for the Ex Wessex-Storm was a very crucial one, and that is to support training conducted by the Combat Ready Training Centre UK (CRTC UK) as an Observer and Mentor for the 1 Scots Guards BG.

My routine for the Wessex Storm involved OCT the exercising Units and providing mentorship to the commanders. This role carried significant responsibility, particularly in collecting information during CPERS serials and briefing it during the After-Action Review (AAR). Additionally, I also held the responsibility of ensuring the exercise was conducted in a safe and secure controlled manner. As a Cpl within the MPS Regiment I was



**Cpl Taberner on Ex WESSEX STORM 2024.**

fortunate not only to experience but at the same time learn our role as a Detention Specialist on the ground. I

wholeheartedly recommend this exercise as valuable training for all my fellow Cpls in the MPS.

## Look at Life

*by Cpl Pibial*

SCF North has taken the initiative to collaborate with local Regiments to bolster good working relationships by incorporating a look at life day to show case the MPS Regiments capability. This initiative was the vision of SSgt Bielefelo, Sgt Kyme and Cpl Pibial to enable local Regiments to understand the profound effect our small unknown Regiment can have on a large scale across the Tri-Services.

The Look at Life Day displays the MPS Regiments ethos: To Deliver Defence specialist detention capability from the home base and on operations by providing safe, secure, and humane custodial environments, in order to support the service justice system and protect the reputation of defence.

### Planning and Preparation

Before the Look at Life Day begins there is meticulous planning and preparation to ensure that the targeted audience gains the information they require. Whether it's a local Regiment wanting to understand our capabilities for future planning by incorporating MPS subject matter experts into their exercises as an observer/mentor, or the local RMP wanting to understand our policy and practice to foster a healthy working relationship. I had also been approached to conduct a Look at Life for potential



**Look at Life with Cpl Pibial.**

volunteer transferees in order for them to gain a formative insight and experience their potential future employment within the MPS Regiment.

### Royal Air Force

#### Leeming Military Police

The look at life day starts with SSgt Bielefelo conducting a meet and greet with RAF Leeming MP (Military Police) before introducing the SCF Staff. The visiting personnel then would take a tour around the facility and gain an insight on the capabilities of the facility, functional aspect, legal requirements to maintain the facility, and the good practices.

The next stage consists of an explanation of a Detainee Not Under Sentence (DNUS) and the distinct categories they may fall into. I will then explain a Detainee Under Sentence (DUS), Rule 58, and the process of Op Carriage. As the target audience was Military Police, I also showed the legal paperwork required between the distinct categories in order for SCF to legally house the Detainees. I found this to be extremely beneficial as the audience were able to ask many questions and receive answers during this stage of the Look at Life Day.

I would then invite the visiting



**Look at Life RAF Leeming - SSgt Bielefelo and Cpl Pibial host the RAF Military Police.**

personnel to the conference room where I would deliver an in-depth presentation on the MPS Regiment capabilities ranging from the Services Custody Facilities, MCTC, Op Carriage, Op Interflex, Observer/Mentor roles, and the Operational side of the Military Provost Staff Regiment.

After the presentation there were many questions asked on all of the capabilities mentioned above. This was amazing to see as the visiting personnel were fully engaged and wanted answers from certain topics for example MCTC Rehabilitation program Service Custody Platoon (SCP), and Observer/Mentor roles.

The Look at Life Day concluded with how you can get involved with the Regiment, many questions were focused on my journey and how I became a member of the Regiment. Do I enjoy my role, shift patterns, and would I recommend joining the Military Provost Staff Regiment, and postings as a sergeant to MCTC.

This is an enjoyable experience for both RAF Leeming MP (Military Police) and SCF North. The feedback that I received from the Military Police was amazing, as they stated that they have learned a tremendous amount about the Regiment. Going forward I feel that SCF



**Look at Life RAF Leeming – Cpl Pibial delivers a lesson to RAF Military Police.**

North has strengthened their relationship with this Look at Life Day.

### **1 Royal Military Police Regiment**

I have also recently delivered a Look at Life Day specifically for the 1 RMP

volunteer transferees.

After a successful experience and the positive impact that the day had, I have been asked to deliver this Look at Life Day four times a year to the Military Police.

# SCF South

SCF South has remained pivotal throughout the year, providing critical support to various departments. It has consistently assisted the Military Court Service (MCS) in Bulford, maintaining close coordination with both local units and the Royal Military Police (RMP). Additionally, SCF South has offered valuable guidance to regiments on detention procedures and liaised with the Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC) regarding policy implementation. These have been the primary responsibilities of SCF South throughout the year.

Alongside these core duties, SCF South has been actively involved in regimental tasks, including Operation INTERFLEX and Operation CARRIAGE. On Op INTERFLEX, SCF South contributed significantly at Knook Camp following the cessation of operations at Longmoor Camp. The team has also been busy delivering the DSC 242 and 243 work placement weeks, which have consistently engaged SCF staff, ensuring a constant state of readiness.

### Sports

In addition to their custodial responsibilities, SCF South staff have been actively involved in various sports activities throughout the year. Under the leadership of SCF South IC, SSgt Emma Mannion-Williams, staff have been



Cpl Narayan Rana runner up at AGC Badminton competition.



Cpl Hem Gurung and Cpl Amar Pun from SCF South representing MPS on AGC volleyball inter corps championship.



encouraged to participate, with SSgt Mannion-Williams leading by example.

- Cpl Aseri Tuca once again participated at the annual DSPG Rugby sevens.
- Cpl Amar Pun represented SCF Coy in the RMP six-a-side football tournament.
- Cpls Hem Gurung and Amar Pun took part in the AGC Inter-Corps Volleyball competition, representing the MPS.
- Cpls Hem Gurung and Jiwan Gurung also represented MPS in the Army Championship Table Tennis tournament.
- Cpl Narayan Rana competed in the AGC Badminton competition, securing the runner-up position.
- Cpls Hem Gurung and Jiwan Gurung were victorious in the Army Corps Operational Shooting Competition, lifting the trophy.

Additionally, members of SCF South participated in EX DRAGON LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE 24, an adventure training exercise in Cyprus. Cpl Pun also completed a 50k ultramarathon in the Chiltern Hills, raising £372 for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (NHS).

#### **Operation INTERFLEX and Operation CARRIAGE**

SCF South has maintained a high operational tempo throughout the year, particularly in its involvement with Op INTERFLEX at Knook Camp, following the conclusion of operations



**Cpl Jiwan Gurung and Cpl Hem Gurung with the trophy at Army Corps operational shooting competition**



**Members from SCF South on adventure training in Cyprus.**

# SCF South

at Longmoor Camp. The operation has been crucial in educating the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF) on the handling of Prisoners of War, with SCF staff continually refining their lessons through feedback from the UAF and guidance from the MCTC training team.

Op CARRIAGE has also been a significant focus, involving the transfer of detainees from SCF South to MCTC. This includes providing support for vulnerable detainees and overseeing the safe transfer of high-profile detainees. The MPS staff responsible for these transfers have demonstrated professionalism in ensuring a secure environment for all involved.

### Team Cohesion

Building a cohesive team has been a priority at SCF South, recognising the importance of strong relationships for effective operations. Despite a busy schedule, the team have engaged in bonding activities, organised by SSgt Emma Mannion-Williams. A team cohesion day in Andover was arranged



Cpl Pun after the completion of 50km run.



Sgt James was invited to join SCF South curry night, while he was working at the MCS in Bulford.

to welcome four new members to SCF South, featuring a lively Seven-hole Indoor Golf competition and an Electronic Dart game. Both activities were fun and competitive, with Cpl Matthew Phillips emerging victorious in both events.

In December, the new SCF members hosted a curry night, further strengthening the team's camaraderie. A quiz competition added to the evening's entertainment, with Cpl Matthew Phillips once again claiming victory, solidifying his status as the reigning champion of all team events.

#### Farewells and Welcomes

This year, SCF South welcomed new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Carter MBE (LANCS). During his visit on 8 February 2024, Lt Col Carter shared his vision for the regiment with SCF South staff, focusing on operational readiness, enhancing combat effectiveness, and maximising current capabilities.

Additionally, SCF South welcomed Cpl Ajit Gurung and Cpl Rabin Rai to the team. However, we also bid farewell to Cpl Matthew Phillips, who



**Cpl Matthew Phillips, Cpl Hem Gurung and Sgt Prophet event winners.**

has transferred to the REME as an armourer, and Cpl Rodrick Tittle, who has been promoted and is moving to

MCTC Colchester for his next posting. We wish them both success in their future endeavours.



**CO MPS, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Carter MBE on first visit to SCF South.**

# SCF Midlands and Wales

by Cpl Mayes

SCF Midlands and Wales deliver a detention capability to service police and offers specialist advice to unit commanders, and unit staff assistants. We remain operationally focused to grow and develop our custodial skills and knowledge.

We have had a significant turnaround in staff due to promotions and people coming to the end of their postings. This has also seen several new NCOs from the recent DSC courses arrive at the facility that are looking forward to their new careers as custodians within SCF Company. Due to operating at a lower capacity than some of the other SCF's we provide support to the rest of SCF Company on various taskings when required. Additionally, when required the team has conducted several escorts to and from other SCF's as well as the MCTC.

The team here at SCF Midlands and Wales focuses on training during quieter periods and continue to assess and adjust our operational commitments such as providing training to Ukrainian Army on OPERATION INTERFLEX. Not only have staff here continued to develop their custodial knowledge but some of the staff have enrolled themselves on further education courses, Cpl Rai 940 and Cpl Carr have both completed their level 2 Self Harm and Suicide Prevention, and Cpl Southey has completed his Use of Force Instructors course.

Many members have taken part in numerous sporting events representing both the MPS Regiment and AGC.



Cpl Rai finishing runner up at AGC badminton.



Cpl Rai as part of the winning mixed team at the AGC squash open.



**Cpl Southey representing the AGC basketball team.**

Cpl Rai has continued to represent the Regiment in both Badminton and Squash at the AGC Tournaments, finishing runner up in the Badminton and securing first place as part of the mixed team at the AGC Squash open. Additionally, Cpl Rai also took part in the Stafford 10k race. Cpl Southey has represented the AGC in Basketball this season and was awarded best newcomer at their annual awards dinner night.

New to the Regiment but keen to get his clubs swinging, Cpl Mannell represented the MPS Regiment at the Provost Cup Golf Tournament and finished 2nd overall. Sgt St. Rose has continued to train and keep himself

fit with his two PT sessions a day and topped the MyZone, and in his spare time represented the MPS Regiment at the Triple Crown Challenge and helped the team to a victorious overall winner of the event. SSgt Hayward helped coach the MPS Regiment Rugby 7's team at the Service Police Rugby 7's tournament, where they narrowly lost to the RAF Police in the final. The team throughout the year have taken the opportunity to organise team days and events to welcome new members of the team to build and develop team cohesion.

**Farewells and Welcomes**  
SCF Midlands and Wales said goodbye

to Sgt Mark Hughes after the completion of his 22 year's service, Cpl Price to new employment. Cpl Southey, Cpl Rai and Cpl Carr will be posted back to MCTC on their promotions. SSgt Hayward is also returning to MCTC after finishing his time at the facility. We wish them all the best for the future.

Due to a significant turnaround in staff, we have welcomed Cpl Mannell, Cpl Mayes, Cpl Cocker and Cpl Dixon to the team. All of them bring a different set of skills from their previous units that will no doubt contribute to a great team environment and will enable the facility to keep developing. We welcome SSgt Naylor who has taken over facility.

# SCF Scotland

*by Cpls Duncan and Rai U*

2024 has been a whirlwind of a year for members of SCF Scotland. The team has seen some staff changes with the welcoming of our new IC, SSgt Baxter, joining us from SCF Catterick and we also welcomed Cpl Rai straight from the DSC course.

The team has been met with some welcoming challenges throughout the year. Deploying to Operation INTERFLEX, passing our annual Inspection (SCIL), delivering CPERS to Reserve units and UOTC Edinburgh in preparation for their Cambrian Patrol in Nov, and Cpl Dennis on JEF(L) readiness commitment.

The team has been delivering weekly training to stay current and at readiness. Cpls' Cheetham and Suluma have been instrumental with assisting in Operation CARRIAGE in support of other facilities. All members of SCF Scotland deployed to Barry Budden to assist with the MPS Reserve Company exercise with some members leaning in on the planning phase. The team has shown great flexibility and ensuring the Operational effectiveness of SCF Company.

It has not been all hard work this year, Cpl Dennis attended MPS Regiment Adventure Training (AT) in Cyprus (his second home) SSgt Baxter and Cpl



**SSgt Baxter OP INTERFLEX Training**



**Cpl Dennis is enjoying the boat trip to blue lagoon Cyprus on AT.**

*Cpl Duncan*



**Cpl Ut is on his 1st AT with MPS Regiment members, cultural visit in Paphos**



**SCF team helping at local food bank.**



**Cpl Duncan photographing the Gibraltar wildlife.**

# SCF Scotland



## SSgt Baxter - Neil Robertson Cup team IC.

Duncan recently attended the Battlefield Study (BFS) in Gibraltar while Cpl Rainima attended BFS in Malta.

Suluma and Rainima represented the regiment at the annual 1 MPBDE Rugby 7's competition at Southwick Park, helping the regiment reach yet another

cup final. SSgt Baxter and Cpl Duncan participated in the Neil Robertson Cup Pace Stick competition, which was no mean feat, some strong teams overall.

There have been multiple team bonding days conducted, these include the celebration on promotion to Sgt for

Cpls' Suluma and Rainima, the team also volunteered at the Edinburgh food bank for a day and conducted community engagements at local establishments.

Overall, SCF Scotland staff have had a fantastic year and look forward to challenges that lie ahead.



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# SCF Northern Ireland

## A Reflection on Two Years of Achievement

*by SSgt McKay, IC SCF NI*

As I conclude my two-year tenure as the IC of the Service Custody Facility in Northern Ireland (SCF NI), I am filled with immense pride and a touch of sadness. Two years have flown by and I find myself reflecting on everything that has happened despite operating in a quieter environment.

As I reflect on the set backs and successes we overcame, I realise that it would be a disservice to not highlight the efforts of the final team to manage SCF NI.

### Sgt Todd

Throughout the year, Sgt Christopher Todd, my 2IC, proved to be my dependable right-hand man. He seemed to have an endless reserve of energy, whether breathing new life into MPS recruitment channels or rigorously analysing data on recruitment and retention for 1 MP Brigade, time and again I found myself asking “how does he find the time to do that?”

His achievements are wide-ranging and Sgt Todd is on track to expand his research to Army-wide recruitment and retention, a mammoth effort likely to earn him a PhD. Yet his focus was never only about crunching numbers, he also led significant fundraising efforts for



Cpl Sautu acclimatizing to Cyprus weather.



Cpl Sautu hill walking.



Cpl Sautu mountain biking in Cyprus.

Ukraine, inspiring the rest of the team to get involved in charitable work. His dedication and passion became a compass for us all, pointing the way to what we could accomplish with vision and hard work..

#### **Cpl Sautu**

Our team cohesion lead, Cpl Aisea Sautu took the lead in getting the staff out for events such as axe throwing and bowling days, which became highly anticipated competitive events! In mid-June,

Cpl Sautu deployed on EXDRAGON-LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE AT in Cyprus. Always up for an adventure he braved the sweltering 38-degree heat upon arrival in Paphos, kicking off his adventure with beach kayaking, paddleboarding, and the communal barbecue that followed.

Over the ensuing days he hiked through the rugged terrains of the Troodos Mountains, explored the ancient ruins of Kourion, and climbed at Dhiarizos Crags. A 10km hill walk in the searing sun and a day of mountain biking only added to the excitement. His adventure concluded with a day relaxing at the beach and a farewell barbecue. Roll on next year!

#### **Cpl Ross**

Cpl Daniel Ross was kept busy all throughout the year, In June he participated in the Neil Robertson Cup, testing his drill and pace-sticking abilities to the maximum in the SCF Company team. Not stopping there, in September, he refined his leadership skills delivering two comprehensive battlefield studies in Malta and Gibraltar. Exploring the hidden corners of old war rooms and remote fortifications, he brought the past alive with each step and every lesson.

And if that wasn't enough, he decided to torture himself further by running the Causeway Coast half marathon for Macmillan Cancer Support, a yearly event for him. Although aiming for a personal best time of under 3 hours, he still found time to snap photos along the route for the Corps Journal, if that's not dedication I don't know what is!

#### **Cpl Booth**

Last but certainly not least Cpl Christopher Booth took charge of delivering CPERS training to units in Northern Ireland. Raising the standards of the entire SCF team and receiving excellent feedback. His efforts strengthened our capabilities



**Cpl Ross pace sticking.**



**Cpl Ross at Lascaris war rooms**

# SCF Northern Ireland

and ensured a lasting impact on the units he trained.

In April, Cpl Booth got his wish to venture underwater by completing the Stoney Cove Ocean Diver Course. Over the course of five days, he mastered the fundamentals of diving, exploring submerged attractions such as an underwater bar and swam inside a sunken plane. Despite pea soup visibility (his words) the experience was immensely worthwhile, and he highly recommends the course to other aspiring divers.

On top of that, he was also part of the winning team in this year's Triple Crown Challenge. Ever humble, he humorously mentioned that, if his knees allow, he also intends to be part of next year's winning team, and low and behold he is!

Reflecting on these accomplishments, it is evident that staff at SCF NI have become a close team. As we prepare to close this chapter and move on to new challenges, I am grateful for the opportunity have lead such an excellent team.

## Farewells

Farewell to Sgt Todd who was assigned to MCTC QM's in October, and Cpl Booth who was assigned on promotion to Detention Company in December. This has seen us draw down to three remaining staff, of which Cpl Ross will eventually be assigned to MCTC QM's in March 2025 and Cpl Sautu to SCF South not long after.



Cpl Ross charity hike.



Cpl Booth Stoney Cove diving.



Cpl Booth Triple Crown winner.



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# Reserve Company

## Annual Camp 20 September – 6 October 2024

by LCpl Nikita George



The Military Provost Staff (MPS) Regiment Reserve Company, being titled as a national unit, has been operating at a competent level due to being resourced by many trained soldiers from all around the UK. Their full-time civilian jobs also provide a great depth of knowledge and experience from which the Company can glean so many benefits, as many of our soldiers are professional Police and Prison Officers in their respective countries, understanding sound custodial practice.

Approximately 40 soldiers from the length and breadth of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland deployed on their Annual Training Camp (ATC) from 20th September to 6th October 2024 to practise and confirm Captured Person (CPERS) skills, gain more military experience and enjoy team building activities.

The Company deployed from the Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC) on 20th September before beginning the arduous journey 466 miles north to our home for the next two weeks of annual camp, Leuchars Camp, St Andrews, Scotland, and the Barry Buddon Training Area.

Some members who were previously trained in the Royal Logistics Corps were able to drive the Green Fleet Land Rover, whilst others in the regiment with a Category D licence were able to drive the minibuses with the rest of the Company. The skillset within the MPS Reserve is vast and wide due to many different civilian and military occupations both past and present. This shone through during the whole camp with different expertise being highlighted throughout.

### Arrival

On arrival at 23:00 hours on Saturday 21st September, the Company disembarked and were provided keys to their accommodation which had previously been taken over by SSgt Iain Mackay and Sgt Martin Blackman.

The rooms were luxurious by army standards, with one soldier per room, with just the odd exception. Each block was named after a Scottish Island so the males occupied both 'Arran' and 'Gordon' while the females were located in 'Skye', just around the corner, closer to the cookhouse!

The next morning was for admin and camp orientation, which allowed

the Company to unpack their baggage/kit and enjoy a run or explore and have dinner at the (PAYD) cookhouse.

### Prep for Battle

On Monday 23rd September, the preparation for the exercise phase began. WO2 Tony Hall and the rest of the training team had put together an insightful training package which aimed to develop understanding amongst the Company of what we were about to deal with during the exercise. The lessons were centred around the JDP1-10, which is the fundamental doctrine that guides the MPS in how to humanely deal with Captured Persons (CPERS) in our detention facilities.

In order to draw out competencies/experiences amongst the soldiers of all ranks, each individual was given a chapter/concept to teach back to the rest of the Company the following morning. Particular attention was required whilst learning about the 'actions on' drills because it is fair to say that the rest of the exercise consisted of a variety of scenarios, which required knowledge and understanding of how to professionally deal with such incidents

in theatre. The main lesson that was to be learned was that when dealing with CPERs, every single action needs to be recorded and justified. As the Officer Commanding (OC), Major Michael Sanderson continuously says, "if it's not written down..... IT DIDN'T HAPPEN"!

Orders were given by both the OC and Capt Moran, both outlining the enemy threat in the area and preparing personnel for what they may need to engage in. There were to be pockets of enemy up to section strength located in the nearby area and therefore the exercise would require a complete tactical approach with a view to being attacked.

### The Recce

Both platoons set off in minibuses and explored their site for the future exercise in the infamous Barry Buddon Training Area, a 40 minute drive Northeast. The recce was input into the programme in order for each Platoon to plot out the design of their plan, measure how much razor wire and tentage etc. would be required for the CPERs and of course, get eyes on the sleeping situation for the foreseeable!

A grid reference was provided to one of the sections, which was due to be the Unit Holding Area (UHA) for the CPERs. That section's role was to recce that position and teach back to the rest of the Coy their plan, highlighting

the purpose of the UHA, it's design and overall structure.

The Commanding Officer (CO) of the MPS Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Carter, arrived at this point and also had a tour of each of the locations. The CO later listened to teach backs from the Senior NCOs which covered the CPERs Combat Estate (seven questions) in depth.

### The Exercise Phase

On Wednesday 2nd October 2024, the Company deployed on exercise to Barry Buddon Training Area.

*1 Platoon patrolled into their pre-recced site, a series of buildings named the 'Cowbyers' and established a Collection Point (CP) for the CPERs to be processed initially.*

*2 Platoon took over the aptly named 'Lighthouse' with a mission to design and build a Temporary Holding Facility (THF) for the CPERs who would inevitably be transported there from the CP, a 5 minute drive away via metal road.*

Throughout the four days and three nights that followed, training scenarios were ran by the training team, which tested the skills learned previously in the week, i.e. actions on death in custody, actions on in direct fire (IDF), actions on hostage, actions on fire, etc; also

effecting a full CPERs pathway training environment.

Each platoon was split down into teams of approximately three MPS reservists, who then rotated through the Guard Force, Quick Reaction Force (QRF), CPERs Handling and Rest.

At both the CP and the THF, the CPERs took a member of the MPS 'hostage' and the rest of the guard force along with the QRF would have to deal with it, which was carried out successfully at the lighthouse as the amount of civilian police and prison staff present were able to call upon previous experience to deal with such an incident. There were learning points from this at each location due to the fact that there are multiple ways to approach this, however, through discussion around previous experience and military procedure, the Company all gained an understanding of how to react in such a situation. A death in custody scenario also presented itself, in which first aid was delivered and a scene was required to preserve the evidence. Recording all actions was the main 'take away' on this as the following investigation would be of upmost thoroughness in reality.

After night number two, the THF at the Lighthouse location was collapsed and the whole Company set up camp at the Cowbyers location and turned the CP into a THF. More tents were erected



# Reserve Company



and razor wire was established. The two Platoons then worked simultaneously through the rotations, whilst maintaining a constant guard presence for expected attacks from enemy forces and sudden influxes of CPERs, which was intelligence presented during the orders beforehand.

On the penultimate evening of the exercise, whilst under attack from Sanger position 3 in the South of the camp, 3 Section, who were on QRF/Guard, were returning fire on a small pocket of enemy. During the firefight, the section ran out of ammunition and the 2IC, Cpl Neil McNickle requested an 'ammo replen' over the radio headset. After no response, he shouted 'we need more ammo'. LCpl Nikita George, being under the impression she was the only one who understood his Northern Irish accent, heard this and shouted loudly for more ammo... After silence and no response, LCpl George believed that no-one could yet again understand her Northern Irish accent so again, shouted 'AMMUNITIONNNNNNN

REPLENNNNNNNN' a copious amount of times... After what felt like an eternity of waiting and shouting under heavy fire, Sgt Steven Finn came round the corner with 'a mag'.

We now realise that Sgt Chris Abbott was right when he said he wouldn't understand anything being in a section with two Northern Irish accents...

By this stage, the enemy position had moved to the West side of the camp, so Cpl McNickle, in his enthusiasm, led his fire team in a charge through the camp with the speed of a thousand gazelles... all of a sudden, everyone heard AAAARGHHH, STOP, MEDIC, END EXXXXXX! Everyone looked around in the dark wondering what had happened... of course we should have known... Cpl Neil McNickle was sighted through the torchlight lying on his back in the CPERs exercise yard with his right leg in the air, with razor wire attached to his trousers... a couple of the first responders removed the one spike of razor wire from his trouser knee and helped him to his feet and when he

realised that he was in fact unscathed, he walked off saying in his strong Northern Irish accent, 'somebody put an 'F'ing cyalume on that' ... this erupted everyone into fits of laughter for the rest of the night.

The next morning, as Cpl McNickle was going to smoke his first pack of the day, he announced that he selflessly ran through the razor wire just to make a way for his section to continue through the pathway and win the firefight... needless to say the rest of the fire team didn't get this memo and the whole incident will go down in MPS camp history as the greatest tragedy of all time...

On the final morning, there was a planned enemy attack on the THF. After the events of the night before I think there was apprehension in the air, as command positions had changed and nobody wanted to be the 2IC who fell through the razor wire! This was an eventful morning and culminated in lessons learned about the limit of exploitation, the intake of CPERs, pairs, fire, manoeuvre, 'come ons', fire



control orders, death under fire... the list of lessons learned went on and on... it was a very successful morning in terms of experience, scenarios, learning and understanding, and of course, we won the fire fight!

### Endex

After decommissioning the tents and disassembling the (already flattened \*\*cough, cough, Neil\*\*) razor wire, the Company cleared and bundled their weapons and vacated the training area ready for a shower.

That evening, everyone was welcome at the hotel pub a 6 minute walk downhill from Leuchars Camp. A few beverages were consumed with Sgt Kev Barker jamming on the Juke Box.

'Much needed R&R'

Now that the exercise was done and dusted, all the football fanatics set out to obtain much sought-after tickets for the Rangers match in Glasgow and, after achieving their goal, they headed off on a minibus for a good day all round...

Others decided that the final attack didn't tire them out enough and continued walking and hiking in the nearby areas, both in St Andrews itself and Ben A'an in the Trossachs region with a view of Loch Katrine. Some also decided to visit Scotland's secret nuclear bunker!

This was a day to reconvene and mentally process what just happened before heading into the next stage of the camp.

## The Second Week

### The Range Package

On arrival at the Barry Buddon ranges (thought we'd escaped this place last week), the Marksmanship Principles were discussed in sections so that everybody was aware of what was expected on the range.

Day 1 consisted of zeroing the weapons (SA80 rifles) and passing the ACMT shoot in order to achieve the certificate of efficiency. This range was ran by the Regiment's Permanent Staff Instructor (PSI), SSgt Shane Gold, who, along with Safety Staff also controlled the Close Quarter Battle/Combat (CQB) rifle and pistol range the next day. This was a highly enjoyable experience and the interest shoot was a first for many reservists, adding to the regiments ever-growing skillset.

Day 3 on the ranges consisted of transition shoots between the SA80 and the Glock 17, along with march

and shoot scenarios controlled by Sgt Dave Hegarty.

The top three winning shots over the three range days were fired by LCpl Tom Keogh, LCpl Alex McGee and LCpl Nikita George. These soldiers were rewarded with a chocolate treat, which was probably one of the best ways to encourage Coy participation in a shooting team for the upcoming year.

Weapon cleaning through dinner on the final day of the shoots diminished morale and WO2 Gilliland called into question whether he should actually apply for an extension or not, until finally SSgt Gold announced the weapons were done and were bundled away, only to find that a trigger guard was left behind and there was no way to know which one it belonged to...

### Green stuff done for another year

Once the weapons were loaded onto the trucks and the MTP uniform was packed away, the next activity on the timetable was a cultural visit to Edinburgh Castle.

Our very own native Scotsman, Capt Fraser Moran, passionately guided the Company around Edinburgh Castle with very unique, knowledgeable insights the whole length and breadth of the Royal Mile. He lavished the Company with stories of old, both fact and fiction and ended on a high note, with The Last Drop bar, where prisoners on death's row would go for 'their last drop' before 'their last drop' on the gallows.

Anyway, on a more uplifting note, battered Mars Bars were sampled, along with Scottish liqueurs (Magnum in the castle was the best) and a great evening was had by all!

After getting minibus rides home, it was heads down ready for adventure training at Loch Insh, just South of Aviemore the next morning, 2 hours North of Leuchars.

On arrival at this Activity Centre, the wind chill felt below zero and the waves on the lake looked rough... the adventurous spirit of the Coy didn't let that stop them though and the dry ski slopes became the place of so many laughs! During the skiing session, the benefits of adventure training could be seen... some members of the Company had never been skiing and pushed themselves out of their comfort zone to try it, whilst others were providing positive reassurance, enhancing team bonding. Others were solely responsible for a lot of belly laughs. After this, the

wetsuits were donned and the lake was ours for the afternoon.

The Company then enjoyed a meal at the log cabin, with a view of the lake, whilst being protected from the elements. The two-hour drive was a beautifully scenic route, which was topped off by good tunes and good company, both on the way there and the way back to Leuchars Camp.

Meanwhile the SPSI, WO2 Tony Hall and the PSI, SSgt Shane Gold, had a platonic weekend in the mountains under the 'starlit sky' beside a 'crackling fire'... and that's in their own words!

After the enjoyment of the adventurous day, the accommodation needed to be cleaned, bags needed to be packed and an early night was in order... After breakfast in the morning, a final parade closed the camp.

The two weeks were brilliant for the Coy as a whole, both in terms of lessons learned and team bonding, with many new faces welcomed into the orbit.

### As Mel Gibson says...

'FREEEEEEEDOMMMMMMM!'

Home time for the Company is always an emotional time, as everyone is aware that so much can change in a year and there is no guarantee you will see everyone again, due to extensions being accepted/declined, injury, new opportunities, choosing a course instead of camp, etc. but the Northern Irish contingent said their farewells and returned to Belfast International via Edinburgh Airport, with the others members of the Company continuing their onward journey back down to MCTC for a final night of craic.

On Sunday 6th October 2024, the vehicle keys were returned and the kit was stored away... that's the bounty in the bag for another year!

A huge congratulations and special mention also goes to Sgt Mark Deans who was told he was incorrectly dressed, and that was not because he was in his pjs with D&V through the exercise phase but because in fact, he has been working at a level beyond his rank for quite some time and has been deservedly rewarded with his third stripe – congratulations Deansy!

A massive thanks also goes out to the whole training team for organising such a memorable camp and special thanks to all those reservists who give up their time every year to be part of something so much bigger than themselves, the MPS Reserve Company!

# Reserve Company

## Visit to HMNB Portsmouth - 18 May 2024

This article shares the experiences and key takeaways from a battlefield study day at HMNB Portsmouth, hosted by the Royal Navy Police (RNP). The visit focused on understanding Operational Detention in the Maritime Environment (ODME), including tours of HMS Prince of Wales and a Type 23 frigate (HMS St Albans). Organised by WO2 Tony Hall, the day provided MPS Detention specialists with invaluable insights into naval detention operations.

### Introduction

On 18th May 2024, MPS Reserve Company participated in a study day at HMNB Portsmouth. The event aimed to deepen the understanding of the historical and operational context of naval detention, focusing on ODME. The visit included exploring the physical settings on various ships to comprehend their role in maritime security and detention operations.

We travelled to Portsmouth by minibus from MCTC, where we were hosted by RNP Tom Smith. He guided us through the morning, providing specialist policing insights and relevant naval information, particularly regarding operational detention.

### Understanding ODME

ODME is the Royal Navy's response to incidents like piracy or hijackings. It involves detaining individuals at sea aboard designated ships. We learned about the "whole ship evolution" of ODME, meaning that the entire crew plays a role, notably with the Royal Navy Boarding Teams detaining individuals and transferring them to the ship.

The study day provided a detailed breakdown of the process:

**Boarding and Initial Detention:** Royal Navy boarding teams detain individuals and transport them to the designated ship.

**Onboard Processing:** Detainees are searched, and any potential evidence is secured. They are then placed in a designated holding facility.

**Security and Wellbeing:** Careful consideration is given to detainee placement, balancing safety and security needs. This may involve temporary placement on the flight deck until port arrival. Basic needs like food and water are provided.

**Challenges and Considerations:** The study day highlighted several key



challenges associated with ODME:

**Limited Space:** Ships have limited space, necessitating thoughtful detainee placement that avoids sensitive areas or poses security risks (e.g., weaponry, machinery).

**Environmental Considerations:** While detainee comfort is a priority, safety and security remain paramount. This may involve temporary placement in less ideal but secure locations.

**Dietary Needs:** Detainees are typically provided basic food options to avoid potential health issues associated with unfamiliar cuisine.

### Operational Context

ODME operations are critical in regions like the Middle East, under operations such as Op Kipion, the UK's initiative to maintain maritime peace.

**Behind the Scenes:** A Look at Naval Vessels ...

We were unable to board the Type 23 Frigate (St Albans) or the Type 45 Destroyer, but we learned about the challenges of detainee placement on these vessels, we learnt about their respective Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Air Warfare designs, and subsequent technology upgrades. Placement considerations for detainees were discussed, highlighting areas to avoid due to noise levels (forward cannon and Sea Viper missile launcher), limited visibility in the hangar, and proximity to sensitive captured packages in the same area. Given these limitations, the rear of the ship by the flight deck was deemed the most suitable location for detaining individuals.

### Touring the HMS Prince of Wales:

#### A City at Sea

The Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft

carriers, with an expected service life of 50 years, are highly versatile and powerful assets. These "floating cities" are capable of undertaking a vast array of missions including carrier strikes, enforcing no-fly zones, deploying Royal Marines, humanitarian aid missions, and international partnerships.

Our tour offered a glimpse into this impressive vessel. We explored the hangar deck, the vast flight deck (fighter jets were absent as they are stationed at RAF bases), and captured a group photo on the deck. The tour continued to the command centre where the Captain oversees operations. Most importantly, we visited the onboard police station and holding cell, understanding that while the HMS Prince of Wales possesses ODME capabilities, frigates and destroyers serve as the workhorses for such operations. The tour concluded with a well-deserved lunch in the ship's canteen.

### Beyond ODME:

#### A Glimpse into Naval History

The afternoon was dedicated to self-guided tours, enriching our understanding of naval history. We explored the HMS Victory, the world's oldest commissioned warship, and the Mary Rose, King Henry VIII's favourite warship tragically sunk in 1545 and remarkably raised in 1982.

### Conclusion

The ODME study day at HMNB Portsmouth was a resounding success. MPS Detention specialists gained invaluable knowledge about naval detention protocols, detainee placement considerations, and the unique challenges faced at sea. The tours and historical context further enriched the learning experience, preparing us for potential future involvement in ODME operations.

# MPS Regiment History

## Meeting The Queen at the Braemar Games



Peter Jennings kindly sent this photograph of the late Les Charlton meeting HM The Queen at the Braemar Games in 1982.

## Heard in 'Bakeoffee' Old Heaths Cafe in Colchester

by Dan Cowley

*'My father, Sgt Ivor Maldwyn Evans (Taff!), who served in the MPSC from 1951 to 1956, was in the MPSC in Hong Kong in 1951 and he was offered a posting to Shepton Mallet or Colchester he chose Colchester'.*

I had booked in the 9th April for a Supper Night at the Bakeoffee, and during an excellent supper I heard the above quote. I then introduced myself to Mrs Barbara Hutchings, I invited her to write an article for the 2024 Journal; this is the resulting story and photographs. There must be dozens of unrecorded tales like this in Colchester!

The photograph is Ivor and the 1951 Bell Huey helicopter and it was taken at an Army Air Day at Middle Wallop in 1980. The dog on his lap is 'Trixie', it was a static display within the permanent barrack display area.



## Thomas Matthew Lee

This is a fascinating historical overview of Thomas Lee who served from 1886 until 1914 in the antecedent Corps of the MPS and who travelled across the Empire.

Thomas Lee was born in **1855**.

He married in **1886**.

**1879:** Pte 2111 Thomas 'Matthew' Lee, 1st Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

**1879 to 1885:** Recorded as Corporal.

**1880:** 25 December stationed in Aldershot.

**1881:** 23 October stationed in Curragh, Ireland.

**1882:** 4 April stationed in Bangalore India.

**1885:** 30 April stationed in Quetta India.

**1887:** Stationed at HMP Parkhurst, Isle of White, this for the appointment as Assistant Warder HOEMPW. This was a civilian employment, not a military commitment.

**1886 to 1901:** Military Prison Staff (MPS).

**1887 to 1902:** Bermuda & Barbados West Indies.

**1901 to 1914:** Military Prison Staff Corps (MPSC).

Home Office Employed Military Prison Warder (HOEMPW)

**1902 to 1906:** Military Prison Staff Corps.

**1906 to 1914:** Military Provost Staff Corps.



The uniform Thomas Lee would have worn in General Service Dress from August 1914.

# Association News

## Remembrance Parade London - 10 November 2024



Once again it was good to see Ex WO2 (Master Chef) Selwyn Channon joining us for the day and many thanks to him for arranging the lunch after the parade.



As another year passes, Remembrance Day reminds us of those who selflessly fought and died for our freedoms; those who have served and are no longer with us. Family, friends, colleagues shall never be forgotten and the opportunity to take part in the Nations act of Remembrance led by His Majesty King Charles III along with thousands of other Veterans and organisations at the Cenotaph is indeed a privilege and an honour.

Joining fellow Veterans from the MPS and other arms and Regiments, some of whom have marched before, we formed up on a beautiful clear day in Horseguards.

There were many familiar faces amongst the ranks and from other Regiments and Corps spread around the parade ground whom we had crossed paths with over the years.

So many smiling faces, proud and emotional at times, renewing old friendships and we were instantly young again.

Laughter, tears, memories flooding back and then the order to form up and the sound of the Sergeant Majors voice



suddenly transported us back in time; instantly growing in height, neck in the back of the collar, on the heel and as we set off, hearts pounding with the sound of 'left ,right, left right, that feeling never ever leaves you.

Moving to our positions on Whitehall, the mood changed and respect for those who have gone before us was again at the forefront of minds as we bowed our

heads in silence as Big Ben sounded the eleventh hour.

As the service of Remembrance concluded, the chat and banter returned as we awaited the order to 'March past' the Cenotaph. Immense pride was palpable as the assembled massed bands struck up the Regimental marches; it really was a 'hairs on the back of the neck' moment.

Then it was our time to go and set off on the approach to the Cenotaph, the sound of the Bands playing, the road lined with applauding onlookers, the twelve members of the detachment paying respects and the MPS wreath was laid amongst the many others at the base of the Cenotaph.

It truly was a humbling experience and one that I shall never ever forget.

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*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them*

---

# Association News

## Field of Remembrance



The Field of Remembrance has been held every November since 1928 when The Poppy Factory brought a group of disabled veterans, a tray of poppies and a collecting tin to the grounds of St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Only a handful of poppies were planted around a single cross, but it began a tradition that has grown over the decades and now tens of thousands of poppies on wooden crosses and tributes are planted every year. The Regimental Secretary and MPS Regiment RSM attended the poignant event on behalf of the Regiment and Association.



# Association News

## Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Day

Founders Day is held annually at the Royal Hospital Chelsea annually and what folloes are some of the traditions and events that take place to mark it.

Chelsea Pensioners wear oak leaves on their scarlet uniforms to honour the story of Charles II hiding in an oak tree to escape capture after the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

The parade includes handing over of command, the Sovereign's Mace being marched on parade, and a general salute.

It was good to meet up with In-Pensioners Wally Swan, Alan Chalkley, and Geordie Leitch. I would like to thank Geordie for his continued efforts to meet up with our In-Pensioners, we all appreciate your efforts, thank you very much.

*Editors Note, Geordie was part of the 2010 Operation Herrick team with me, serving personnel and indeed veterans may wish to quiz him about his detainee transfer, otherwise known as 'Full Metal Jacket' exploits in a US Forward Operating Base for 7 days!*







# Association News

## Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Lunch

In December the Deputy Commandant, Major Rob Moffatt and the Regimental Secretary, Major Corky Corcoran, handed over the annual Christmas grant and had lunch with In-Pensioner Wally Swan, unfortunately In-Pensioner Dave Williams was away that day.

Wally is in good spirits and we were also joined by Rita who used to work in the Royal Hospital bar, and remains good friends with Wally and visits him often.

Lunch was in the Royal Hospital Great Hall, a truly historic room.



## An update from Clifford and Annie Gingells 40 years from leaving the Corps

*Benidorm  
Spain  
cliffordgingell44@gmail.com  
27th June 2024*

Good morning, I greet you well and sincerely hope that is the case with you, and all the family, and all is well at the MCTC, on this fine, warm, and sunny morning here in Spain.

Well, with eyebrows raised I am sure you are somewhat surprised to receive this letter with your breakfast post, since I have not tapped out any communication with you and the Association for some time.

During the past couple of weeks or so there has been much coverage of the eightieth anniversary of the D-Day landings, which led me to reflect over the years, recalling that it is just 40 years almost to the day that I stood down handing over to my successor Ernie Curtis-Oram.

It is 40 years since I left the Corps and first took up my role as a Centre Manager for 'Donaldson' at Belle Vale shopping Centre in Liverpool, twenty years since I took early retirement as Centre Director from the Merseyway shopping centre and the Grand Central leisure complex in Stockport and 17 years since we moved to Spain. So much has happened during those years,

Time is going so fast, we cannot believe that we are now almost halfway through this year, where does time go? When I announced my early retirement, Malissa my Marketing Manager said to me "Cliff retirement you will be bored with time on your hands" Time on my hands, it is the other way round we always seem to be 'time shy' never finding time to do all we would wish, often playing catch up, Probably due to us living life in the fast lane so to speak.

As I only seem to exchange seasonal greeting at Christmas with Cards, and the occasional email with a couple of old Comrades namely Dan Cowley and Alan Foley, I am sure to most of the association members I am lost in the misty haze of time, and to the new generation I'm just a name on the roll of honour in the Sergeants mess and know little of our life here in Spain. So, what can I tell you without boring you to death! Some of the more recent salient



points in a life in the sun.

It is now just seventeen years almost to the day that we first moved into our new home on the urbanisation in the valley of Hondon, the urbanisation called La Montanosa is halfway between the two small towns of Hondon de las Nieves (village of the snow flower) and Hondon de la Frailes (village of the Friars).

We have watched and enjoyed seeing the urbanisation settle and mature, one of the things we missed most when we came was the lack birds, the sparrows were the first to start colonising the area, then came the Blackbirds, swallows in summer and migrating Starlings in the autumn, and a few more local birds.

There is only the one road across the raised causeway through the vineyards

# Association News

which totally surround the urbanisation, which sits below a range of hill, some 480 metre above sea level, of the 460 dwellings many are holiday homes so there was never more than about 55percent occupation at any one time, so it was always quiet.

Once settled here we decided to holiday throughout Spain as there is much to explore, travelling by train, the train service here is very efficient, reliable, and relatively cheap compared to UK rail travel. I continue to drive but don't undertake excessively long journeys any more maximum two/two and a half hours, Annie is still driving locally but never over the mountains or on the motorways, our Honda Accord which we brought down from the UK, had to go after thirteen years ten of which were here in Spain and 300,000 miles on the clock, did us good service, we then changed to left hand drive a Peugeot 3008 which we kept for six years and have in the past two years changed it for a Ford Puma, which is ideal for our needs now.

We love to take city breaks delving into the local culture, traditions and history, our favourite cities are Valencia, Madrid and of course Alicante which is very local to us only forty minutes' drive, We have also visited Granada, Seville, and Cordoba. We also out of nostalgia made a trip to Gibraltar, not impressed with the place now, and many more minor cities and towns too numerous to mention.

In the summer of 2022, we had a holiday in Zaragoza and the general area, we have also taken holidays in Lisboa Portugal, Vienna, Austria, Naples, and Sorrento Italy.

In 2022 we also made two return trips to the UK for the first time together since January 2008. Our first visit was to Scotland in the Spring to visit Amy and Pete, (Annie's daughter and son-in-law) they now live in Elgin. Pete had transferred from the Royal Navy, flying helicopters, out of RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall to the Royal Air Force and is now flying the 737 Trident surveillance aircraft out of RAF Lossiemouth, Amy continues to work as a theatre nurse for NHS Scotland.

Michaela and Colin in Colchester, continue to live in Colchester Michaela continues to teach, she is now head of the language department in the academy where she works, Colin went self-employed at the end of the COVID

and does some form Health and Safety advisor to small business he also is the regular DJ in one of the night clubs off the high street in Colchester.

Our next visit was to Cambridge, a city we had driven past in my many years living in Colchester on our way north but never visited, it was wonderful, we stayed in Christ's College in the centre of the city, and it was a photographers paradise for Annie, the weather was wonderful, a beautiful autumn, something we miss here in Spain, we of course did the obligatory Punting! Our friends who live near Cambridge joined us for the weekend to round off a wonderful trip, Having said that, our return trip through Stanstead was just one long nightmare, and the whole experience has put Annie off air travel for life she never wants to fly or enter another airport again and I agree with her.

Over the years I have remained very active with my 'Masonry', and charity work, and enjoyed a full social life although I have slowed down a little, having held the very active office of a Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for five years, not sure if I will take part this year, but during the past summer recess's I had been facilitating a number of workshops which were very successful and were most enjoyable rewarding and stimulating. I have given up playing golf as my old whiplash injuries was giving me some trouble with my neck. I have also hung up my Toastmasters outfit, just sitting back and enjoying social event from the side line. Annie is still very much into her hobby of Photography, and we spend many a day out with her camera all over the province of Valencia and Mercia, she then spends hours editing and posting online, through which she has developed friendships across the world, I compare them with the old pen friends we used to have, she is incredibly happy with her results, and it keeps her mind active.

As you are probably aware our weather here in Spain and across Europe in general last year was somewhat hotter than the norm, and it had been going on since early-May with no respite in sight, our temperatures had been consistently in the high thirties and often peaking in the low forties, we are not really complaining about the weather as that what we joined for! but being Brits, we do grumble a little, we did long for the autumn to come and cool down, So far our region of Spain has been free of any

wildfires, we pray this continues. This year the weather so far has been a mixed bag, but is just settling and warming up, twenty-eight degrees yesterday. How did you all cope with the heatwaves you have had in the UK?

Wow, here I am waffling on with trivia, so I'll cut to the chase, as I said at the beginning, it seventeen years since we moved into our house and home here in Spain, we have had seventeen wonderful years in the valley, but it was now time for us to move on, Annie now has difficulty with the stairs, the house is too big, I had also decided that the upkeep of the garden and swimming pool were now too much, more of a chore than a pleasure, whilst we would be sad to move we had to face facts we may still be young at heart and in mind keeping active but we are getting older (80 in July) and things are beginning to take their toll on us both.

So, we decided downsizing was our best option and moving into an apartment, in an exclusive resort for seniors (70's +) Residential complex on the edge of Benidorm (don't knock it till you have tried it, it's not all Hen and Stag and larger louts).

The complex allows us to live our independent lives, but provides all the support with multiple services, in a beautiful park, which has a central building with restaurant, bars, library, and other facilities, four outdoor swimming pools and an indoor pool and gym. With 24-hour medical cover. And many more services in support. All the apartment blocks are named after flowers, we had chosen and reserved a ground floor apartment in the block Elisa (look it up at [www.ciudadpatricia.com](http://www.ciudadpatricia.com)) You enter at ground floor level but when you step onto the patio we are one floor up, due to the slope of the ground with a magnificent panoramic view.

We are now settled into our new apartment having unpacked the last of some forty-eight boxes, the charity shop did extremely well out of us as downsizing from a large four-bedroom villa to a compact two-bedroom apartment takes some radical decluttering. I am sure many of you may have experienced a similar situation. Our new address and contact details are at the head of this letter.

Having settled we have commenced exploring our new surrounding and again getting out with Annie's camera, I have purchased a mobility scooter which fits



**Warrant Officers of the MCTC Colchester 1981: Back from left: WO2 Don Yates, WO2 Cas Clay, Capt ? – ADC, WO2 John Embling, WO2 Chris Garrity, WO2 Pete Jenings, WO2 Mike Walker, WO2 Davis Hood. Front: WO Lance Sullivan, WO2 Gordon Harvey, Gen ?, WO1 (RSM) Mike Russell, Lt Col Tim Illingworth (Comdt), WO1 Clifford Gingell, WO2 Ernie Curtis-Oram.**

into the boot of the car, this has enabled us to extend our days out as Annie tires very quickly whilst walking the longer distances.

The second point of this letter is to inform you that with the continued unreliability of both the UK and Spanish postal service and of course the ever-increasing cost of postage, we have decided that all our seasonal greetings

cards will be via email in future. So, if you would like to continue to receive Christmas greeting from us or indeed correspond with us please let us have a contact email address.

During our move and radical de-cluttering, I came across some historic photographs circa 1980s which I enclose I have put names to most, can you fill the blanks?

Well, I guess that sort of brings you somewhat up to date and you have probably had enough of my prattle for one day, your coffee gone cold and toast all soggy

so, I will close, continue to enjoy your life as Annie and I hope to, take care and stay safe and may God bless you all

Best regards, yours

**Clifford and Annie Gingell**

## Deaths

**Darragh:** Jim transferred from The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders into the Army Physical Training Corps, and served at the MCTC in Colchester as the QMSI in the early 2000's, he retired from the Army in 2005 and settled in Suffolk.

**Harris:** Mrs Tessa Harris, wife of the late Major Graham Harris MBE OBE MPSC.

**Nicoll:** WO2 Davey J Nicoll transferred from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's

Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment) in December 2005. He served at the MCTC in Colchester and Iraq on Operation Telic in 2008, Davey retired in 2014.

**Langdon:** Staff Sergeant Langdon transferred from the Royal Regiment of Artillery to the Military Provost Staff Corps in 1979 and retired in 1985. He served at the MCTC in Colchester, Northern Ireland and deployed, during the Prison Officers strike in 1980, to HMP Frankland in Durham.

**Lambert:** Staff Sergeant Lex Lambert transferred from the Coldstream Guards to the Military Provost Staff in 1994, and he served in Colchester and in Kosovo in 1999. He retired in the early 2000's.

**Matthews:** Staff Sergeant Maurice Matthews, known as Mo. Mo served in Kure, Japan in 1955, Malaya in 1956, East Africa in 1957, Colchester in 1957, Shepton Mallet 1962 and lastly Aden in 1966. He was discharged in December 1966.



## Proud to support Army boxing

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We help industry partners and the private sector to meet their corporate goals, through valuable networking opportunities provided by sporting events. Team Army sponsors become involved with Army sports at the level they choose, through gold, silver or bronze sponsorship options.

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Team Army is endorsed by the UK Ministry of Defence's Executive Committee Army Board (ECAB) and works in partnership with the Army Sports Control Board, which regulates all sport played in the Army.

We continuously campaign to increase the funding that supports our Army sports associations with a steady income stream and simpler administration.

**If you want to know more about Team Army or discuss it further with our CEO, Major General Lamont Kirkland CBE, please contact Gerald Callus at [gerald.callus@teamarmy.org](mailto:gerald.callus@teamarmy.org) or on 07427 175 530, who will facilitate the next steps.**

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