

THE POSTHORN

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Royal Engineers – Postal services

An overview of Postings within UK – other than at HPCD

By, John Jackett (Postal Service 1959 – 1981)

In asking for information from fellow ex-Posties, I have acknowledged the help received, at each source. No slight is intended to those personnel who continued serving, under the change of cap badge from 3rd April 1993. Also fondly remembered are WRAC stalwarts who stood alongside us, then between 1991-1993 even some female Sappers. Wherever they have come to light, they have been included.

Photographs are included as an illustration of who and how we were.

There were 3 known Brigade level Postal Units formed in UK, their designation varied from Postal Unit RE to Postal and Courier Communications Unit RE and so on, so I will refer to them as Postal Units, also all Officer appointments were as Captains, many rose far beyond that as their careers progressed..

Similarly Warrant Officer ranks and appointments can be confusing – RSM or WO 1(Tech), SSM or QM or WO 2 – with or without the laurel leaves, I shall do my best to be as accurate as I can within the information gleaned.

- 5 Infantry Brigade – Initially formed at Mill Hill and then based at Tidworth, (1958 - ??)
- 16 Independent Parachute Brigade – Formed at Mill Hill and then Aldershot. (1958 – 1976), a short spell at Bulford, also Para-jumped for pay purposes with SAS at Hereford, Postal Det found there 1976 – 1982 at least.
- 19 Infantry Brigade – Formed at Mill Hill with dets at Colchester. (1958 - ??)

The establishment of all three was for 13 all ranks. A captain, 2 sergeants, 3 corporals (one of them an RE Driver), 2 lance corporals and 5 Sappers (one of which was an RE Driver). The drivers were NOT attached they were on the posted strength against established posts.

The length of tour varied from at least a year up to three, however within the **Paras** that was quite often extended, due to the length and type of training they endured to qualify, not only for the extra two guineas a week but more importantly, for their coveted “Red Beret”.

- 24 Inf Bde, appears briefly at Plymouth under the service record for Don Cooper in 1967 / 68, upon returning from Aden.

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Forthcoming Events

**Annual Dinner & Dance
RE PCS Reunion
4th – 6th April 2014**

- 104 Postal Unit, first seen at Mill Hill in the early 1960s, alongside the camp FPO, behind the QM stores. Noted to have performed many overseas short tours. Eventually Settling at South Cerney.

AER = TA (Postal) Always found at Mill Hill, permanent staff of Maj OC, S.Sgt Chief Clerk, at least 2 Cpls and a few other clerks.

Brize Norton RAF station, Courier wing det. personnel have been identified, from around the 1970s.

Bulford: Postal identities such as 3 Div (first postings at Gunsite camp in 1955), 1 PCC Sqn. UK Spt. (by 1975), 21 Sqn from May 1979.

Hereford, Dets with the SAS from 1976 to 1982 (at least).

Middle Wallop, home of the Army Air Corps, known dates are 1958 – 1960 (at least).

Northern Ireland, Intensified and greatly changed from 1969.

Plymouth, See entry under 24 Inf Bde, below.

South Cerney: UK (Support) / Courier wing. 104, mainly 2 PC Regt (from May 1979), 20 Sqn is here, this then directs me to the later title of 22 Sqn as being in Northern Ireland – accelerated by the 1969 troubles into a very large operation, all of which will be expanded below.

5 Inf Bde

OCs, Captains: Len Calcutt (? – 1965), Frank Lea (1965 – 1967) and Colin Pawson (1967 - ?)

Also serving – Johnny Baird, Chippy Carpenter, Ken and Ron Davies (not related), Pat Hynes, John Jackett, Tommy Moore, Andy Palmer, Reg Peacock, Bill Skeel, Derek Watt (1960 / 62 in Kenya, later to Brunei and Canada). Ernie Grimes and Chalky White (both RE Drivers),

Arriving at Jellalabad Bks Tidworth in August 1965, I was quite surprised at a sense of isolation as the only **Postie** resident in the Brigade WOs & Sgts Mess, up until this point I had not served with anyone else. Now I was surrounded by R Signals, RMP, RCT, REME etc, etc – Senior Rank representatives of all the Units that make up a Brigade Headquarters. Our OC was Capt Frank Lea with whom I enjoyed a very easy working relationship and baby sat at Ludgershall for them on many evenings.

Sgt Reg Peacock remained at Tidworth in his married quarter in November, when we were sent via Singapore to Sibul, Sarawak. Reg was replaced on posting by Sgt Bill Skeel, when we returned in August 1966. Bill had joined us at FPO Labuan from Singapore.

To occupy our time before then, Brigade exercised us to make sure of our role. On Wednesdays we just had enough in the Unit for a soccer team, leaving a duty-clerk behind, it was certainly team-spirit building, besides that we went on carefully constructed map reading exercises, ensuring there was a pub lunch at the half way stop. There are usually two ways to do most things!

Being part of the Brigade advance party, Capt Lea and I flew from Changi to Sibul, via Kuching. With 19 Bde occupying all of the accommodation until the MV Aubrey arrived with our main party, one off / one on – so that 5 Bde could move in. The working day was 6.30 am to 3.0 pm - unless our mail plane was late.

Christmas Lunch in the all ranks mess is well remembered, it was my turn to go the Airport to collect the inward Air Mail, I was allowed to tell the Brigadier – in front of the well-fed men, that the UK connection at Changi had missed that morning, so there was no Mail on Christmas Day, I successfully dodged the flying Tiger beer cans, as I beat a retreat!

In August 1966 Malaysia and Indonesia signed a peace treaty, as a result we were given just 3 few weeks to pack up and get out!

What we as a Brigade could not shift, we buried. Capt Lea was replaced by Capt Colin Pawson, a rally enthusiast, so as his volunteer navigator, I took on some interesting duties in 1967!

Brigade life resumed and we exercised all over UK, especially remembered is the wettest I have ever been in South Wales and a chance to see Sunderland play Notts Forest when we visited Otterburn Ranges, The daily mail runs to / from Newcastle were augmented with the collection of **freshly baked pies** , the pick-up was in Gateshead, duly authorised of course. The Pies were for eating after the evening film show and paid for by the PRI, needless to say the driver and courier had one each at the bakery, for fetching them.

The Berlin Military Tattoo and British week Brussels provided other attractive “work!” Accompanied by Chippy, we were away for a month all together; Berlin was magic but the National Service conditions offered by the Belgian Military for our last two weeks, left much to be desired. We carried almost as much ready-meals from nearby eateries, as inward mail bags back to camp, on our daily mail-runs. As for the two-tiered rickety bunk beds with straw mattresses – enough said!

Contributors: Chippy Carpenter, Pat Hynes, Frank Lea and Bill Skeel.

16 Ind Para Bde

Known OCs were: **Dennis Streatfield, Laurie Watkins, Mike Browne, Doug Swanson and John Francis.**

Unit members – Bryn Edwards, Dick Inkpen, Eddie Lyons, Paul Stoddart and Ginge Wells, all served in Bahrain.



Don Bramley was an early recruit, followed (alphabetically) by – Eric (Doggy) Barker (shows 3 Para in 1972 - on website service record), Colin Barlow, Dave Bowers, Jack Bullen, Ginge Burton, Mick Coles (Bde heavyweight boxing champion), Pat Condon, Gary Copson, (L.Cpl) ... Cox, John Doherty, Dickie Dolan (1963/66 – from 9 Para), Johnny Fee, Spr Fougere, Dave Gladwin, Paul Horabin, Eddie Kennedy, Brian Lea, Dave Lomas, Stephen Lythgoe, Dennis Mackie, Stan Madgin (Chief Clerk), Grahame (Jimmy ?) McCauley (Nat Service), Mick McCormack Pete Raven, Jimmy (Pete to some) Read BEM, Tommy Sands, Geordie Sampson (also SAS), Smudge Smith, ...Wager, also two RE Drivers Jonny Leach and a non Para Chalky White Another well

remembered Driver (RE) was Rod Whiting – later a Postie and a Sergeant.

Tony Belcher – is listed by several as being around – particularly in Bulford, Doug confirms that although he completed his Para course, he was RTUd to Mill Hill.

Paul Stoddart (1959 – 1966) remembers HPD Part 1 orders in 1959, that led him to his **Red Beret** –

One day a paragraph appeared for volunteers to join 16 Ind Para Bde Postal Unit; the unit had previously been formed for a tour in Jordan, because King Hussein of Jordan, Ruler of the Hashemite Kingdom was in danger of being removed from power. .

The British Government decided he needed help - seemingly somewhere in the Directorate of Army Postal Services a postal unit had been earmarked for the Para Bde. All volunteers, **You, You, and You.** but not Para trained. Captain Dennis Streatfield and Sgt Don Bramley are known to have made that earlier tour The unit establishment was to be 1 Officer (Capt) and 12 others ranks. I put my name forward; this was what I had been waiting for.

I was introduced to a sapper called Gary Copson, we were to remain friends until he passed away in 2008. I asked Gary why he wished to train as a parachutist. He then informed that his brother had been killed at Arnhem. We were grilled for a hour on why we wished to join the Para's, asked the reason, was it for the extra money ? (£2 guineas a week), were we fit ?, could we last the tough training?

Of course we were fit, well we thought we were also it was nothing to do with the extra cash but it was glory of serving with the Para's.- we were to be asked this question many times in the future. We were informed that we would be posted to 216 Para signal Sqn for pre Para training, this would last 2 weeks and if we were good enough we would then be sent to P Coy (Pegasus Company) for another 2 weeks, pass this and then it was of to Abingdon for Parachute training and the completion of 8 Parachute jumps and then presented with our wings.

Volunteers can be expected to be pushed to their limits and then beyond, the prize, wings and the coveted (red beret) after the completion of the 8 jumps.

After a period of 1 week and hard physical training at Mill Hill, Gary and I packed all our kit and were then transported to Aldershot to commence training with the Para Signals, it was a Sunday. After the usual documentation we started the training on the Monday morning. What a shock to the system, we thought we were fit; we soon realized our fitness levels had a lot to be desired. We were allocated a number this was to be shown on our helmet, forget every other identity, no name only identified as a number. Although the training was hard I thoroughly enjoyed it, my physical fitness was taken to a new level, and I found a new inner strength and confidence. We were also lectured on the history of the Parachute Regiments and Brigade.

The worst part of the course and the most nerve racking was on black Monday. This was the start of the second week. Everyone who had survived stood by their beds, helmets on and we were then informed whether we had passed the first week and could continue on the second week. The worst thing you could have been told was, no names, number x RTU to unit. The panel had decided over the weekend whether you were capable of completing the course based on what they had seen on your fitness, attitude, confidence and other essential points. Gary and I were lucky and we both progressed to the 2nd week.

One other important point, when we progressed to P Company, it consisted of volunteers from all regiments and from the Marines, The Navy and the RAF also all ranks there was no favoritism every one was treated the same officer or other rank.

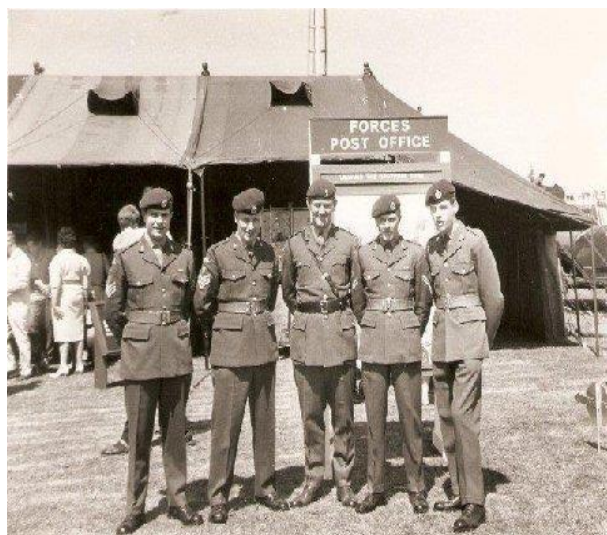
The Parachute Regiment had their own training which was different in that they completed their basic training with their regiment and then completed their parachute training. The first time we would meet was when we arrived at Abingdon where we would have to complete our 8 jumps. During the course many volunteers would find the going too tough and would pack it in, a few would obtain injuries and would be allowed to complete another course if the instructors felt they were capable of passing.



Of all who commenced the course only about 30% progressed to Abingdon for their parachute jumps. Along the way we were to learn new words, Craphat, anyone who did not wear a red beret, Penguin a non flying bird, face veil, camouflage scarf, 44 pattern webbing, specialized webbing for airborne forces, Cobby Wobbles, (rubber soled boots). It was a new way of life, a new language and a comradeship that would never be matched. Now it is off to Abingdon, only the 8 parachute jumps separated us from the coveted red beret.

Arrived at Abingdon and billeted with the RAF. Immediately I noticed a difference, the accommodation was much better than the army, it was more relaxed to what I was used to. The biggest difference was the food in the dining hall. It was light, open planning and the food; one would not have had a better choice in a 5 star restaurant. There were separate areas for salads, roast dinners, soups, curries, fish and many more dishes. There were also the sweets, what a selection so mouth-watering; it was very difficult to make a choice. Breakfast was also different, everything grilled healthily and eggs cooked to choice at the grill, even hard boiled if required, the RAF could give the army a lesson on how to satisfy the needs of the troops. So much for the fine things in life, it was now time for what we were here for to train for our first parachute jump from a balloon.

Eddie Lyons (1961 – 1968) contribution 16 Para Bde. :-



in early 1960 on their deployment to Bahrain.

Also worth noting that Doug Swanson was the first PCS Officer /OR to pass the French Parachute Course as well as the British Army Para Course!!

As far as I know only one Postie ever passed the SAS Course and that was Spr Geordie Samson who passed his SAS Course First, and later was then invited to leave the SAS following a problem in Malaya. Having passed his B 3 course with 28 Bde PCCU, under the guidance of Wally Damant, Paddy Baxter and Reg Foulks - to name but a few, he was again short-toured. He then transferred to 16 Para Bde PURE Det at Mill Hill in the early 1960's.

Also I believe that I was the first UK Para Postie to complete a Free Fall Course in the UK or abroad at The British Skydiving Centre, Thrupton Aerodrome in August 1963. My BSC Thrupton Membership Number was 14 and my UK British Parachute Association (BPA) Number is 622.

Paul also notes with regard to Bahrain, that – The detachment to Bahrain commenced on 8 Apr 1963 and consisted of myself in charge accompanied with Bryn Edwards and ? Fougere. We were attached to 261 Postal Unit for 3 months at RAF Muharraq whilst a new office could be allocated at Hamala Camp with 2 Para. We worked under Andy Murray (Snr) and carried out a mobile service to Hamala Camp which was about 25 miles from the RAF camp. After 3 months we were allocated this large 8 x 6 ft building and after 2 Troop 9 Para Sqn RE built a counter for us and made it look like a miniature post office (2 was a crowd) we then opened for business. For most of the tour Fougere was returned to the UK on compassionate reasons, it was then left to Bryn and myself to run the office. Just as our tour was about to finish at the end of March 1964 the Radfan situation boiled over and 2 Para and the detachments were prepared and scheduled to fly to Aden. It all changed within a week and in the end 2 Para flew back to the UK and 3 Para took over. I handed over to Bryn Edwards who volunteered to serve another year in Bahrain. I flew back to the UK on the 8th Apr 1964, good job as I was getting married in the August.

Dave Gladwin adds that he is the only Postie to have served under each Para postal OC.

I would guess that there are only about 20 - 25 ex-Para Posties still alive. I served with 16 Para Bde PURE from 1961 to 1968. I was lucky enough and very privileged to have been detached to 1, 2 and 3 Parachute Regiments in Bahrain between 1965-1967 providing BFPO Support to each of the 3 Regiments. We were not Regimental Post Orderlies as I believe that Title came much later within PCS. I believe that only myself (Sgt) and Cpl Bryn Edwards served with all 1,2 and 3 Parachute Regiments in Bahrain as we both did 2 consecutive 12 months tour (total 24 months) which overlapped the changeover between all 3 Regular Parachute Regiments.

If I remember correctly 3 members of 16 Para Bde Postal Unit RE were detached to the posted strength of either 1, 2 or 3 Parachute Regiments during each respective Regiments 12 month deployment to Bahrain to provide BFPO support to the respective Parachute regiment deployed to Bahrain during the 1960's. I believe that Paul Stoddart may have been the SNOIC (Cpl then Sgt) of the initial 16 Para Bde PURE Det to 3 Para (?)



By the early 1970s a small detachment had moved to Bulford, names remembered as being there are: Tony Belcher, alongside of Johnny Fee, Dave Gladwin, Tommy Sands and Smudge Smith.

Contributors: Dick Dolan, Dave Gladwin, Eddie Lyons, Paul Stoddart and Doug Swanson.

19 Inf Bde

OCs – Captains: Norman Hall, Rolf James – with Colin Pawson in Borneo (1965) and Peter Prince.

Known other ranks – Derek Bent, Don Doig, John Grant, Reg (Lofty) Grimes, Pete Keen, Norman Lockwood, Geoff Manning,

Don Doig was posted to the Mill Hill det in June 1958, during that tour they went to Cyprus for a couple of months – kindly researched by Thelma from his red book.

Geoff Manning recalls - I was posted to 19 Bde PURE as a young L/Cpl in late 1960 when it was located in Mill Hill sharing accommodation with 16 Para and 5 Bde. The 19 Bde Postal Unit was commanded by Capt Norman Hall, and the Sgt I believe was Lofty Grimes. While at Mill Hill we would have short tours to Cherry Tree Camp, Colchester to man the FPO set up next to the telephone exchange in Cherry Tree - Cpl Derek Bent was on permanent detachment as NCO i/c FPO. I was promoted Cpl in 1961 to fill a vacancy on establishment.

I believe the PUREs were dispersed to Aldershot, Colchester, and Tidworth about 1962, this would have coincided with the arrival of HPD at Inglis barracks from Gunsite camp.

The Bde establishments were changed in 1963 to include an additional Sgt (from 1 to 2) and, being in the right place at the right time, (how lucky can you be!!) I was promoted in late 1963, A/Sgt to fill the vacancy at 19 Bde, Colchester. Norman Lockwood was the other Sgt and the OC was Capt Peter Prince, to be replaced a short time later by Captain Rolf James. I was posted from the Bde in 1966.

Colin Pawson commanded a Detachment for an unaccompanied tour to Borneo to support the Malaysian / Indonesian war until November 1965. Pete Keen was the Sgt in Sibul, Sarawak Borneo, when control of the FPOs within "Mid-West Brigade", was given over to the incoming 5 Inf Bde. Under 2003 Posties photos, Margaret Grant has included a photo of her brother John, listed as being stationed at Colchester with 19 Bde!

Contributors: Thelma Doig, Frank Lea and Geoff Manning

24 Inf Bde

Don Cooper was S/Sgt at Plymouth with this unit in July 1967 / Mar 1968, his previous tour was in Aden with 24 Bde.

Terry East recalls – I was in Aden, (Falaise) on 12 months unaccompanied tour Sept 66 until Jul 67, when we pulled out of Aden. After which we were posted to Plymouth (Crownhill Fort) with 24 Bde from Oct 67 until Oct 69. I believe 24 Bde was disbanded and replaced with 2 PC Regt whose HQ was in South Cerney during those two years....although I might be wrong!

The only guys I can recall from those Plymouth days are Capt Browne (who then moved to 16 Para), Sgt's Don Cooper, and Stuart McLean. Also Don Lambert although I can't be absolutely sure I've got the name correct. What I do recall was that 'Don' was a Cpl and served an accompanied tour with his wife and two girls in Falaise until we pulled out of Aden in 67

Contributors : Terry East

104 Postal Unit

OCs / 2 i/cs- mostly as Capts in the early days: Alec Isaacs (Maj), Darryl Loyd (1968/70). Colin Pawson, Ivor Siddall, Bill Twigg, and Eric Worthington.

Along with - Billy Appleyard, Paddy Armstrong, Pete Brathwaite, Terry Chadwick, Brian Chaffe, Tommy Compson (Canada & Antigua), Doug Cooper (? – 1967 Zambia tour), Brian Felks, Reg Foulks (1971/73), Spr Gallagher (Dvr), Geordie Gradwell. Paddy Graysie, Bob Harnett. John Jackson, Dougie Kerr, Frankie Knights, Bob McKeever (1972/75), Joe Norwood. Mick Pickard, Phil Quin (Canada & Antigua), Taff Sayce (1966/ ?). Maurice Vessey (1967/ ?), Derek Watt (1970/71)..and Geoff Woodhead..

Maurice Vessey (Sgt in 1966/67) joined them in Zambia, replacing Doug Cooper, who came home to UK through ill health. Reg Foulks went to Ethiopia and Norway between 1971/73 with 104.

John Jackson told me over the phone, that 104 still participated in many overseas exercises when they arrived at South Cerney, he recalled being with the SAS, took a while to be accepted as their exercise Postie, in fact on the outward flight, no one spoke to him at all! By the end they were asking if he was available to do another!

Contributors: Tommy Compson, John Jackson, Lou Lister and Maurice Vessey

Brize Norton – Courier terminal

A courier terminal was established at RAF Brize Norton, staffing names have been found to be ; Jim Andrews (1971), (Spr)Ball, Frank Cann, Colin Carr (1990 ?), "Ginge" Holmes, Pete Keen, Jay Kosygin, Alex Lennie (1971/?), Roger Williams BEM (1991/93)

Alex Lennie shares his memories - About 1971 I was sent from Mill Hill to HPCCD RE (Det) RAF Brize Norton. We were located next to the bowling alley (source of ready food) and dealt with all RAF flights with a LRCS WO's. Spr Ball, Ginge Holmes, Jay Kosygin (check spelling) and WO2 Pete Keen ran the outfit. We dealt with loading/unloading Brittanias, VC 10s and the early C130 24hrs a day. Had great fun with WRAF as there was very few RE's about. We received parcel mail from all over the world, dealt with customs and delivered mails to Oxford and Mill Hill, driving those bloody awful diesel vans that rattled and rolled. Whilst there in Brixze, the RAF wanted us out and made plans to move us to the old mortuary where it was bloody cold and bleak. Pete Keen was a great boss and often invited us JNCOs round for a meal. The great thing about the Britannia aircraft was when the crew started the engines, you'd hear/see the blades turning and a high whine, suddenly a huge flame would shoot out from behind the engine as excess fuel ignited and the props turned. Often wondered how many pax sat uncomfortable for eight hours to Akrotiri having messed themselves.

Contributors: Frank Cann and Alex Lennie

Bulford

DADAPS – 3 Div / Bulford directorate office under various titles Timeline –

1961 - Geoff Manning contributes DADAPS HQ 3 Div: This was formed in 1961 at Bulford. The first DADAPS was Maj Bill King, and I was posted to Bulford as the first DADAPS clerk - I couldn't type nor did I know how to run an office. I had to learn fast but with help from the RASC clerks in Div main building we were scraping by. We were then moved out of main building to be working with Engineer Branch - from there we moved to share office accommodation with the DOPT and a further move to our own offices in the Div Artillery building, near by Bulford Post Office.

Bill King was replaced by Maj Arthur Burge (always a gentleman) and then by Major Don London (again a gentleman), the exact years for the changes escape me now.

1955 - Don Doig was posted to 3 Div Postal Unit in September 1955, located at Gunsite camp, also listed with Don are Norman Lockwood and Geoff Chandler. Dons` red book lists deployment to Malta for the Suez crisis during this posting

1966 - Dave Blane adds - Feb/Mar 1966 DADAPS was RJN Kelly. I was posted to be DADAPS clerk at 3 Div, replacing Taff Sayce and John Hudson was also there.

1968 - Len Calcutt arrived to take over. Title changed to DADPCC HQ 3 Division. With the formation of 3 Div PCCU RE (April 1968), this post was relinquished when Len Calcutt became OC. Dave Blane left in Sep 1968.

Bulford Dets / 3 Div Postal names include the following

1968 – Dave Blane adds – With the arrival of Eddie Lyons (SSgt) later Andy Murray (WO2) joined Len Calcutt and were titled 3 Div PCCU.

1968 / 70 - at 3 Div Postal. Don Cooper - S.Sgt to WO 2,

More posties arrived over the next few years : Brian Ali, Tom Ambrose, Pete Askew, Keith Balham (Dvr RE), Derek Bent, Tony Brignell, Dave "Tara" Brown, Alex Carson, Derek Chapman, Dave Cooke, Doug Cooper, Ken Cooper, Lou Costello (Dvr RE), Nick Cox (1981/83), John Couling (1980/81), Humph Cryer (1971/75), Jock Edwards, Pat Elliott, Tom Finney, Jimmy Galloway (Dvr RE), John Gaskell, Steve Geary, Ernie Gent, Titch Grant, Gary Gratton (MT), Taff Griffiths, Cpl Hallam, Bill Heath, Cliff Hands, Frank Hilderley, Andy Ingram, Jock Innis, Roy Izzard, Ian "Speedy" Hayward, Colin Hunter, Joe Kelly, Lofty King, Paul Lewis (1992/93), Kev Loxham, Steve Lythgoe, Dennis Mackie (from 1 Para), Rob (Mally) Mason, Billy McLeod (became PTI), Jim McDonald, Carr Montgomery (1984/87), Nick Morris, Charlie Newman, George Nicholson, Bill Noden, Phil Norsden, Rev Oliver, Geordie Orr, Larry Peacock, Ken Pugh, Bob Randall, Russ Rycroft, Smudge Smith (Dvr RE), Bob Spence, **Jim Steer** - 1 Sqn UK (SP) PCCU RE, (1977/80 – incl dets to Gambia, Canada, Kenya, Italy, Germany), Mick Walker (early 1980s), Eric Williamson, Officers posted there, have been notified as: Len Calcutt, Barry Cash, Mick Conjoice, John Evans, Mike Hucker, Frank Lea, Bernard Miles, Dick Platt and Peter Wescott.

Several contributors have included a Para det there (1972 / 74 era), which included: Tony Belcher, alongside, Dave Gladwin, Johnny fee, Tommy Sands and Smudge Smith.

Contributors: Dave Blane, Humph Cryer, Thelma Doig, John Gaskell, Cliff Hands, Frank Hilderley, Steve Lythgoe, Geoff Manning, George Nicholson and Eddie Rea.



During my time at Bulford I remember being the Postie Det for the Allied Central Europe Mobile Force (Land) AMF (L) this involved exercises in Norway, Denmark, Germany and a chance to go to Turkey

(Unfortunately we went to Salisbury Plain instead due to Political Problems there). Even with all our Winter Warfare clothing on, the visiting NATO Forces from Germany (Paras (Medics & Signals)), Danish Rangers, Italian Alpinaries and Canadian troops whinged about how cold and wet Salisbury Plain was in November 1978. When I first arrived Bulford in March 1977 the Postie's role was to support Spearhead Force. I was very disappointed when, we swapped roles from Spearhead to AMF (L) the week before Bermuda blew up. Bermudians under the influence of American outsiders started to Riot in the streets. Spearhead were call out about Jul-Aug 77 from the Posties at South Cerney. I think Jimmy Bradshaw went. Prior to this I had gone to Guyana South America with 1st Anglian Regiment and had a 24hour stop over in Bermuda the highlight of the exercise as Guyana is not one of the best places in the world. During this exercise Pete Griffiths did manage to go into the Jungle with the troops, while I stayed at the International Airport Camp at Timeri, outside Georgetown the capital of Guyana.

Part of the training to be in AMF (L) was to complete an Artic Training course in Norway over the winter months. The memories I have from there, were, that we trained with an RCT Unit from Bulford. Part of the training ended with an exercise to put our skills to the test. We set out as a three tent RCT/RE group, as part of the exercise support group. Our tent had initially just 5 men, Capt Speight, Sgt Eddie Smith, me, Ian Silk and Jock Innes. This group eventually was reduced to one tent. As the RCT troops got frost bite, taken off sick or their tent burnt down. We ended up with one Intelligent Corp interpreter nick named 'Napalm' who shared our tent. When it was his turn on tent stag duty, (keeping the light and stove going for an hour). All those in our tent remained awake checking to ensure he would not set fire to the tent. All cooking due to the cold and height was done in pressure cookers. During his time in the tent he did do some cooking. Unfortunately he forgot to pierce the Compo ration tins before he placed them in the pressure cooker. These tins contained spaghetti and when he opened them, the tent was sprayed with spaghetti string from the tins. Another memory was Jock Innes reading a newspaper from home, then saying, what a harsh winter (78), the UK was having, as we sat in our tents with a howling blizzard and the temperature minus 30 outside.

Larry Peacock

Hereford

With the closure of 16 Para at Aldershot in 1976, Andy Murray (Snr) despatched Eddie Rea from South Cerney to RE PC (Det) Bradbury lines Hereford, he was followed there by Phil Hathrill in early 1979.

Jack Gosden (1979/82) also was there – I was stationed at Bradbury Lines Hereford as their Postie! A very memorable posting it was, I had first hand experience with the best the British Army could train, and once you were accepted it was an experience never to be forgotten, especially the BFT that started the 1.5 mile run back at the bottom of a hill!!

This arrangement allowed the continuation of required **Para-payment jumps** to be completed alongside the SAS.

Contributors: Jack Gosden and Eddie Rea.

Middle Wallop Postal Det

In 1961 Clive Jones showed a photo of himself to Graham Warden, wearing a pale blue beret with his RE badge, he explained that he had been serving at the home of the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop before joining Graham in Hong Kong.

Bob McKeever was also at Middle Wallop –

I was at Middle Wallop from 1959 to 1960 for about 12 months, the Sgt was Jim Walker, yes with the blue beret and rubber soled boots, I went on a relief for a week and stayed about 12 months, Sgt Vic Bach came to relieve Jim Walker for leave, the sapper I relieved was a welsh lad, I do not know who relieved me When I got back to the depot I was in BD with blue beret AAC flashes and rubber soled boots when I went in to see Bert Peasley [*HPD adjutant*] he looked up and asked: "where the hell have you come from?" It was a good 12 months.

Contributors: Bob McKeever and Graham Warden.

Northern Ireland

In the mid / late 1960s the courier run from Mill Hill was a weekend turn-around. A reserved compartment on the Friday night train from Euston, took two Posties to Stranraer to catch the morning ferry over to Larne, then another train on to Belfast. Duty vehicle was a well remembered Morris 1000 traveller, enabling transfer of inward Courier mails to HQ Northern Ireland. Grab a meal if you are lucky, exchange bags – if any - and then back to Belfast, onto the train once more for Larne and then crossing back to Stranraer, for the night train to Euston, arriving back at Mill Hill on Sunday morning, shattered and ready to do it all again, probably next weekend.

Capt John Cobb with Joe Baker as SSM, established their CDO at Lisburn in 1969, the incoming airfield being Aldergrove. Other FPOs were later set up at Armagh, Ballykelly, Londonderry and Omagh, each with at least a Sgt in charge. Initial tours of duty were 4 months, later extended to 6 months.

Major Ron Parkes welcomed Posties in 1973; he was possibly heading towards RO as he intended his children to finish their education over there. Other Officers that followed are known to have been - Mike Browne, Barry Cash, Chris Connaughton (1986/88 returning with 2 cap badges in 1992/96), Simon Fenwick, Barry Linden, Ken Patient, Peter St Ruth, Doug Swanson (1972) and David Wilkinson (1978/79).

Doug Swanson contributes – I was the first major to command the enlarged operation there from March – July 1972. During this time we had the Widgery Inquiry into Bloody Sunday, UK Rule introduced and many deaths of soldiers on duty. We opened several extra FPOs and carried the Cabinet Boxes to and from London each day for the Government at Stormont. I also introduced (with DSS Northern Ireland agreement) the payment of Family Allowances to our families through our FPOs. I also lost my 2i/c after he did some investigation of derelict outlying houses with his neighbour. They went into one that was not empty!!!!!!!

Back in Thiepval Barracks with the HQ I managed to double the size of the main distribution centre, had a 32 foot Portacabin delivered for my unit HQ – it literally arrived on the end of a crane and installed a Pillar Box given by the NI Post Office with Lt Col Paddy Manson, MC (a member of our TA) as their Director. Funnily enough I also did half a dozen or so jumps with 1 Para onto a DZ on Slemish Mountain, sometimes accompanied by Spr Smith who was on loan to us from 3 Div. I introduced BFPO 825 for HQ NI. Before this all mail was addressed to BFPO 801 and was sorted in our CDO in Lisburn. When I calculated that almost 50% was for the HQ I saw a quick solution and much earlier mail delivery to the HQ. All we had to do was open the 825 final bags and list the Registered mail for delivery as well as the Courier mail – of which there was a lot. We also stopped sending some outbound mails through the GPO – after the IRA robbed the GPO sorting office in Londonderry and took the military mail and registered mails.

Other ranks serving there, have been found, as – Jim Andrews (1976), Pete Askew (Dec 1980 – Gales brought giant tree down onto the FPO buildings), Susan Battison (1977 - RMP attachment?), Bill Bennett (organised cricket team in local league 1973/75), Dave Blane (1973 – shared a caravan with Graham Warden), Ian Campbell, Frank Cann, Cheryl Cannon (1980/81), Nick Clifton (1975 & 1984), Tommy Compson (1972/73), John Couling (1972/73 & 1981/83), Jimmy Craig, Jim Dempsey, Eddie Dent BEM (1970/72), Steve Farley, John Galland (1974/75 & 2nd tour late 1980s), Brian Harris (1984/86), Trevor Heard (1970/72), Don Hendry, John Hogarth (1982/84), Ron Jessiman (1973), Wally Joyce (1977/78), Lou Lister (1974/76), Kevin Loxam (1973), Gerry Maguire (1973), Wee John McGovern (1973), John McLeod (1987/89), Jimmy (Chalky) McNab, Ray Mitchell (1974/75 & 1991), Carr Montgomery (1974/75), Chris Neill MBE, Steve Patch (1987/90), Melanie Pickford (1987/88 – later Melanie Walsh), Ted Ryan, Isabel Savage (1985/87), John Smart, Chas Timothy, Carl Vickers (1986/89), Graham Warwick, Graham Warden (1973), Stephen White, Vic Winton, John Wittaker (1973/74), Henry Wooding and Ian Wrigglesworth (1973).

Cleft Stick article of 1977 lists BFPO numbers in use as – BFPOs – 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 811 and 825 Graham Stewart BEM - Lisburn & Londonderry, suggested introduction of Individual BFPO Nos for FPOs detached from Lisburn via Chain of Command and accepted. This made daily working life easier and stopped unit sortation at Mill Hill. It went on to list commanders, supervisors and workers, I found the following names :

Allen Armstrong, Andy (Brian) Anderson, Phil Brant, Brian Chaffe, Alan Chapman, Bob Christie, Smoothy Clifton, Lou Costello, Tony Doherty, Brian Fisher, Steve Ford, Lou Hawarden, (Cpl)Hegarty, Bill Lawson, Roger Mason, Jock Maxwell, Don McGhee, Lennie Minter, Chalky McNab, Graham Packham, SSM Fred Simpson, Graham Stewart BEM, Barry Taylor, Jack Watson, Tony Wilks, Pte Hazel Wilson, and Scouse Wright, (my apologies if I have left anyone out, the article is in columns, with b & w photos which, through photocopying / e-mail etc are mostly unreadable - and the right-hand edge has been "trimmed" a bit enthusiastically!!)

Contributors: Dave Blane, Lou Lister, Eddie Rea, Doug Swanson and Graham Warden.

South Cerney

1979 – May of that year, 2 PC Regt was the new title at South Cerney, 21 Sqn were at Bulford under Norman Lockwood 22 Sqn in Northern Ireland and 23 Sqn in Cyprus.. Technical control also extended to Hong Kong.

Officers who served here: Steve Barr, Mike Browne, Arthur Burge, Alan Burlinson, Peter Cussons, Brian Felks, Simon Fenwick (1980), Chris Finnigan, Howard Hughes, Neil Kelly, Mark Learmont, Geoff Manning, Andy Murray, Peter Redfern (1st tour as OR1976 / 79 – also; 2 i/c 83/86 & 1989/94), Ken Smith, Peter Wescott, and Ian Winfield.

RSMs were: Paul Stoddart to 1980, John Jackett to 1981 and Bob Randall took on the task of the Falklands conflict. Pete Capon (1984) and Gordon Ferguson.

WO class 2s included : Bob Davidson - up to 1979, he then went to 3 Regt in Dusseldorf as RSM. Barry Wilding (and John Jackett) laid out the Map Reading areas in the Forest of Dean in 1980, when HPD came to summer camp in Monmouth on Wye. Reg Briscoe, Alan Butler (1980/84), Stu Cambridge (1977/79), Humph Cryer (1985/86), Dick Inkpen and Peter Golightly were also there.

Exercise FPOs world-wide sent their weekly FF 26s back to be collated, so the WO 1 was a “base accountant” to Mill Hill, thank goodness we operated in sterling world wide, imagine Kroner, Francs and Marks to be sifted, cross-checked for accuracy, signals sent over discrepancies, if all OK or - at least explainable, weekly sent on to Mill Hill. Every military unit, big and small, had an annual Admin inspection, one piece of paper needed was a Postal inspection, so each week senior rank members of the unit went off across UK to a pre-planned timetable, to see the Adjutant / 2 i/c and their local postmaster, to ensure that all was well with local arrangements. These were then typed up upon return by the admin staff of 2 PC and we moved on to next weeks programme, a busy time for all senior ranks.

1984 WOs & Sgts` Mess dinner



Rear Row WO2 Dowdewelly, S.Sgt. Chapman, Sgt. Fee, WO2 (SSM) Pearce, Sgt. Brown, S.Sgt. Smith, S.Sgt. Jennings.
Centre Row Sgt. Roberts, Sgt. Gritt, Capt. Learmont, Capt. Hughes, Capt. Redfern, Capt. Finnigan, S.Sgt. Waite, Sgt. Prosser.
Front Row Maj. Morrow, Maj. Burlinson, Lt. Col. Browne, WO1 (RSM) P.G. Capon, Brig. R.N.R.P. James, WO1 Gaffey, Maj. Winfield.

1986 – Regimental Group photo,



ing Photography, Timsbury, Bath

GROUP 861

**VISIT OF BRIGADIER R.N.R.P. JAMES
14th MAY 1986**

Rear Row Spr. Jones, Cpl. Groom, Sgt. Brown, S.Sgt. Jennings, Sgt. Gritt, Spr. Ozog, L. Cpls. Montgomery, Witts, Greyson, Scott, Spr. Hogg, Sgt. Fee, Spr. Mason T.J.
Centre Row S.Sgts. Waite, Smith, Sgt. Roberts, L.Cpl. Johnstone, Sgt. Prosser, Cpl. Higman, L.Cpls. O'Malley, Gadsby, S.Sgt. Paxton, L.Cpl. Ramsey, Sprs. Mason, Palmer.
Front Row W/Pte. Kelly, WO1 Gaffey, Capts. Redfern, Finnigan, Maj. Winfield, Lt. Col. Browne, Brig. James, WO1 (RSM) Capon, Maj. Burlinson, Capts. Learmont, Hughes, S.Sgt. Chapman, W/Pte. Coyle.

Additional posties known to have served there included : John Bleasedale (early 1990s), Cpl Bluck, Steve Farley, John Galland, Norman Harman (1974/77 – Dets to Italy (2), Kenya, Antigua & Norway. 2nd tour 1983/84 to

Batus, Canada. 3rd tour 1986 to Belize), John McLeod (1985 – Det to Belize), Dave Muckle (1986/88), Chris Neill MBE, Eddie Rea (1975/80 – Incl Det to SAS at Hereford), Steve Roberts, Jim Steer (1988 det to Ascension Island), Gary Walker, Steve Wade (1981/85), Stephen White (80 Sqn ?), Keith Wolfendale (early 1990s)

Courier wing – was also there. Wee John McGovern (1967 / 68), Eddie Dent BEM (1977 / 82),

Contributors: Dave Blane, John Bleasdale, Humph Cryer, Peter Cussons, Thelma Doig, Geoff Manning, Dave Muckle, Eddie Rea and Paul Stoddart

“Terriers”

Headquarters Army Emergency Reserve and Training Centre RE (Postal)

To give its full title, firstly occupied one of the wooden huts beside the PTS up to the arrival from Gunsite of HPD, these huts were demolished to make way for the WRAC WOs and Sgts mess building. The second home from 1962 to 1964 was the little red brick house next to the top guardroom, immediately behind the Officers Mess. Finally moving to be above the camp FPO and 104 in its early days, next to the WOs and Sgts Mess RE.

My OCs were: Major Sidney Fancourt, Don London – then Capt Bob Bennett for a while, the remainder were short term appointments up to my departure in July 1965.

Training Instructors – One of the PTS instructors under the direction of Ron Parkes / Tommy Rowe, followed by permanent postings for Jack Rouse and Maurice Timmins.

Chief Clerks – Neil Lamb, Darryl Lloyd, and Reg Grimes.

Clerks – Pete Askew, Betty Broadhead, Don Calder, Derek Clark (NS), Dave Connor (NS), Brian Green, `Tony Hardy (NS), George Hastings (NS), James Robson, Dave Smith (NS), Alan Springett and Doreen (later Mrs Reg Grimes). We had at least 2 other WRAC clerks with us, names are gone, I am afraid.

From around 1962 intensive TA recruiting meant an extended training season. Previously TA posties came for their two weeks “Camp”, after weekend documentation, ranges etc, they set off in small groups to staff FPOs at such exotic spots as - Penhale camp Newquay Cornwall, Wyke Regis Camp Weymouth Dorset, Lancaster Lancs, Thetford Norfolk,. Major exercises were supported in BAOR from time to time.

Recruit training meant two weeks at Mill Hill from mid January through to Easter time, followed by the ongoing annual camps above. Permanent staff holidays were therefore shelved until the end of the year in most cases, when the GPO Christmas rush, closed the door on TA activities for any Postman.

The above information was correlated by John Jackson

100th Anniversary of the Royal Engineers Postal Section 28th February 1913 – 28th February 2013



To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Engineers Postal Section a tree was planted at the National Memorial Arboretum. Unfortunately the Branch was not allowed to use the Royal Engineer garden but luckily permission was obtained from the Post Office to use their garden. A representative was also on hand from the Post Office (Peter Armitage). A retired Postman who works as a local Post Office guide for groups of children who visit the National Arboretum. PCS members assembled for a ceremony in the Chapel at the National Arboretum before then going to the General Post Office (GPO) garden, to plant the tree to commemorate this anniversary. Our president Peter Wescott was given the honour of planting the tree. (Mediterranean pine). After the ceremony



members had time to look around and visit the site.

The National Arboretum

Since planting began in 1997, the National Memorial Arboretum has been a special place honouring those who have served, and continue to serve, our nation in many different ways. Covering 150 acres, the Arboretum has something for everyone. For some it's a wonderful place to stroll and enjoy the trees; for others it's a peaceful and beautiful place to remember loved ones, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The trees and the more than 200 dedicated memorials on the site make the Arboretum a living tribute that will forever acknowledge the personal sacrifices made by the Armed Forces and civil services of this country. Importantly, the focus isn't totally military. There is a large area devoted to Police who have fallen while on duty, as well as other areas devoted to the Fire and Rescue and Ambulance services. National charities representing those who have died in particular circumstances, including children, are also to be found in the Arboretum grounds. The Arboretum was the brainchild of Commander David Childs CBE who wished to see established a national focus for Remembrance. Following a meeting with Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC, an appeal was launched in 1994 by the then Prime Minister, John Major. The future of the project became assured when three proposals were agreed. These were: for the site to be the location of the Armed Forces Memorial; for the Ministry of Defence to pay a significant grant-in-aid to allow for free entry and that The Royal British Legion would accept the gift of the site as the focus for the Nation's year-round Remembrance. The project began with no money, no land, no staff and no trees. The National Lottery, in the form of the Millennium Commission, granted some forty per cent of the funds needed and this was matched by thousands of donations, both large and small, from a wide variety of organisations both military and civilian, men and women, corporate and voluntary. The site was developed on reclaimed gravel workings, bordered by the Rivers Trent and Tame, gifted to the charity by Lafarge, which has generously supported the idea from the beginning. The Arboretum was officially opened to the public in May 2001. From the start it was seen as a place of joy where the lives of people would be remembered by living trees that would grow and mature in a world at peace. As planting began in 1997 it seemed appropriate that the site should also celebrate the turn of the century. The Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness is a central part of the site and was created to offer a place of tranquillity and reflection to people of every faith or none. The Arboretum's planting philosophy has always been inclusive, as can be seen in the many and varied plots. Nearly all were designed in partnership and consultation so that every group could feel a sense of ownership of the memorial to which they had contributed.

(Curtsey of Website)

The Armed Forces Memorial



The Armed Forces Memorial, dedicated in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen on 12 October 2007, is a nationally significant focus for Remembrance. It honours those members of the Armed Forces (Regular and Reserve) who were killed on duty while performing functions attributable to the special circumstances and requirements of the Armed Forces, or as a result of terrorist action, and those who died while deployed on designated operations. The Memorial is a stunning piece of architecture comprising a 43 metre diameter stone structure with two curved walls and two straight walls containing the names of those honoured here. Since the end of World War II the men and women of the Armed Forces, often supported by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Merchant Navy, have taken part in more than 50 operations and conflicts across the world, often as part of United Nations, NATO or other international coalitions. It's not just Service Personnel who've made the sacrifice. Behind every name on the Memorial are the wives, husbands, partners, parents, children and colleagues who loved them and who live with the pain and consequences of their loss every day. A number of "Posties" who have died in service after World War II have been engraved on the walls of this memorial.

(Curtsey of Website)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting on the 14th April 2013

The President brought the meeting to order and welcomed all those present at 1030hrs at the "Marriott Hotel Swindon". 55 Members attended including committee.

1. The President confirmed to the branch of his retirement and the handing over of the reins to Graham Meacher. (Who unfortunately could not make the meeting due to a prior engagement). The president thanked those present for his gift of a Watch and the flowers for Mary Wescott. He then went on to thank the current committee members individually and mentioned his own recollection of them to the amusement of

those members present.

2. Minutes from previous meeting were then read out and confirmed as true.

Proposed By: Norman Harman

Seconded By: Melvyn Bellamy

3. Financial summary.

Treasurers report given and financial statement for the year subject to audit. Thanks were given to the ladies on the raffle committee for the efforts in increasing the branches funds from the Raffle held on Saturday night.

Income/Expenditure 2012/13

Expenditure

Wreaths/Flowers	£160.00
Admin/Newsletter/Website	£842.67
Annual Reunion	£787.80
<i>(Wine 382.80/Disco £280 Flowers Gift Voucher £55 Speaker's Accm £70)</i>	
National Arboretum tree planting.	£210.00
Annual Re-Union	
Total	£2050.47

Income

Subscriptions	£1015.00
Raffle profits	£115.00
Bank Interest	£0.21
Total	£1130.21

Bank Balance as at 31 December 2012	£1934.77
Fixed Assets Branch Standard.	£650.00
Branch worth as at 31 December 2012	£2584.77

Proposed by Peter Cussons

Seconded by Jimmy Jowett

4. The President read out the Old Comrades lost to the branch since the last meeting.

Liz Appleyard, Dave Bowers, Garry Copson, Anthony Doherty, Jack Griffiths, George Hulme, Andy Ingram, Phil McClumpfa, Dick Platt, Ronald Pyne, Tony Ross, Jack Rous, Dave Vickery and Graham Warwick.

A minutes silence was held in memory of members who had passed away in the last year.

5. Committee.

The committee offered up their posts for re-election.

President:

Lt. Col. (Retired) Graham Meacher RE

Chairman.

Maj. (Retired) Brian Felks RE

Treasurer:

Maj. (Retired) Chris Connaughton RE

Secretary:

Larry Peacock

Committee assistant Member.

Mr Mick Atkinson

A vote was taken and the committee members were confirmed.

Proposed by: Nick Clifton

Seconded by: Norman Harman

6. *Matters Arising.*

The Chairman spoke on the following

a. **Commemorative Tree (100th Anniversary of the Royal Engineers Postal Section.**

The chairman Brian Felks spoke on the tree planting ceremony at the National Arboretum Alwas and thanked those members who attended.

b. **Remembrance Day Marchers.**

Details will be available on a round robin when fully known.

7. *Proposal for the location of the next year's Event.*

King Charles Hotel Chatham – Norman & Pam Sussex

De Vere Orchard Hotel, Nottingham.

Marriott Birmingham.

A vote was taken and the proposal was for the Marriott at Birmingham for the weekend 4 - 6 April 2014

Gez Hernandez offered his services to do the Disco.

Proposed by: Eddie Lyons

Seconded by: Pete Stoddard

8. *Any other business.*

a. *Link of the website to Facebook*

Dave Muckle volunteered to take this on board in consultation with Sue Harmon.

b. *Nick Clifton thanked the branch for the floral tribute to Liz Appleyard.*

c. *Bill Butt mentioned that it will be the 25th Anniversary on 1st August 2013 for Mick Robbins death in the Mill Hill Bombing and suggested a wreath be laid at this time.*

d. *Branch ties were again mentioned to see if they could be purchased again for new members. Contact would be made with the RE 'Sappers Shop' Chatham to find out the costs.*

e. *Entries on the PCS REA memoriam page. Sue Harman requested that a limit be placed on who should be entered on this page. Entries should be for those Posties who have served in Postal Units along with members of the association.*

9. *Apologies.*

Pete Braithwaite (Overseas), John Douglas, Reg Foulks (Illness), Pete Holman (Port Health), Mike Lambert, Graham Meacher, Dave Milstead, Rod Norman and Dave Tedder.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 1110hrs

Mr Mick Atkinson

Committee Members

President:

Col. (Retired) Graham Meacher

RE

Chairman:

Maj. (Retired) Brian Felks RE

Treasurer:

Maj. (Retired) Chris Connaughton

RE

Secretary:

Larry Peacock

Committee Members

Secretary details

Larry Peacock

31 Pennine Crescent

REDCAR

TS10 4 AE

Telephone:

01642-476380

Email

larrypeacock60@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Eligibility

If you have served in the RE (PS) or (PCCU) or (PCS) you are eligible to join the PCS Branch of the REA. (Any other H.M. Armed Forces (Royal Navy and Royal Air Forces) member who has served with or associated with Postal & Courier Units then you can join as an Associate Member). If you served in the ATS or WRAC and were trained as a Postal & Courier Operator you are entitled to join the PCS Branch as an Associate member.

Subscriptions £5 per year. Please make cheques payable to:
"The Treasurer PCS Branch REA"

Lost & Found

Members, who have lost contact (LC) with the branch, wish to leave (WL) and those that are over three years behind in their subscriptions (BS):

Ralph BAKER (BS), Donald CAMPBELL (BS) Gilbert COLE (BS), Stephen DARRAGH (BS), Stephen HOGG (BS), Adam JACK (BS), Kevin LIVESEY (BS), Victor MATTHEWS (BS), Raymond MILFORD (BS), Christopher NEILL (BS), Carmino RUGGIERO (BS), Ian SILK (BS), David SMITH (BS) Richard WEBB (BS),

Welcome to new and old branch members:

Michael JONES, Stephen FACCENDA, Ralph GILCHRIST, Melanie GOODY, Mike LAMBERT, Penny LIDDICOT, Sharon PROWSE, Tommy SANDS (Returned), Eric WILLIAMSON and John WINTERBOTTOM.

Last Post



Over the year the following members are no longer with us and have moved to a higher association. We honour:-

Liz APPEYARD, Dave BOWERS, Gary COPSON,

Bob DAVIESON, Anthony DOHERTY, Ronald PYNE, Jack ROUS, Dave VICKERY.

In remembrance of the anniversary of Micky Robbins



Members attended Micky's Robbins grave and placed a wreath in remembrance of the 25th anniversary of his death in the Bombing of Mill Hill Barracks 1st August 1988.

Membership Subscription List

Listed below are the current details of all members subscriptions, paid up to the date shown. Any concerns about the dates shown, then please contact me, Larry Peacock, and I will make the correction or confirm that the details are correct.

No	First Name	SURNAME	Year
1	Brian	ANDERSON	2013
2	James	ANDREWS	2014
3	Peter	ASKEW	2014
4	Michael	ATKINSON	2017
5	Mark	ATWELL	2011
6	John	BAILEY	2010
7	Terence	BAKEWELL	2013
8	Alan	BARKER	2014
9	Martyn	BARRETT	2013
10	Douglas	BAXTER	2015
11	Joseph	BEEDELES	2013
12	Melvyn	BELLAMY	2015
13	Christopher	BENNETT	2012
14	Gina	BERTIE	2015
15	David	BINNINGTON	2011

No	First Name	SURNAME	Year
16	Reg	BLACK	2010
17	David	BLANE	2014
18	John	BOWMAN	2014
19	James	BRADSHAW	2014
20	Peter	BRAITHWAITE	2013
21	George	BRETT	2016
22	Eric	BRICE	2016
23	David	BROWN	2018
24	Elizabeth	BROWN	PSNR
25	Anthony	BRYAN	2015
26	Richard	BULLOCK	2011
27	Mark	BURTON	2014
28	William	BUTT	2017
29	Karen	CALDWELL	2012
30	Stuart	CAMBRIDGE	2016
31	Alexander	CARSON	2010
32	Terence	CHADWICK	2013
33	George	CHANDLER	2015
34	Douglas	CLARK	2015
35	George	CLEASBY	2011
36	Nicholas	CLIFTON	2014
37	Tilly	CLIFTON	PSNR
38	Peter	CLIFTON	2010
39	Leslie	CLYDESDALE	2015
40	Adrian	COLLINS	2013
41	Thomas	COMPSON	2017
42	Christopher	CONNAUGHTON	2015
43	Donald	COOPER	2011
44	John	CORRIGAN	2013
45	Alasdair	COWAN	2013
46	Carl	COX	2014
47	Stuart	CRAIG	2016
48	Neil	CRAWFORD	2014
49	Audrey	CROOK	2014
50	Humphrey	CRYER	2015
51	Michael	CUMMINS	2013
52	Anthony	CURTIS	2014
53	Peter	CUSSONS	2014
54	Gerald	DAVEY	2010
55	Alan	DAVIES	2016
56	Joan	DAVIES	PSNR
57	John	DOHERTY	2012
58	John	DOUGLAS	2014

No	First Name	SURNAME	Year
59	Henry	EAGLE	2014
60	Dennis	EASON	2012
61	Patrick	ELLIOTT	2014
62	Derek	EWAN	2013
63	Stephen	FACCENDA	New
64	Brian	FELKS	2017
65	Simon	FENWICK	Life
66	Frederick	FERGUSON	2013
67	Jeremy	FIELD	2016
68	Andrew	FLOOD	2010
69	Reg	FOULKS	2014
70	Don	FOWLER	2021
71	Christine	FRETWELL	2013
72	Ronald	FULTON	2014
73	John	GADSBY	2014
74	Paul	GAFFNEY	2015
75	John	GALLAND	2015
76	Albert	GARRIOCK	2015
77	Alistair	GEE	2014
78	Ernest	GENT	2011
79	Michael	GIBERTSON	2013
80	Ralph	GILCHRIST	New
81	Christopher	GOODWIN	2013
82	Melanie	GOODY	2013
83	Margaret	GRANT	2014
84	Robert	GRAY	2020
85	Patricia	GRAY	2016
86	Peter	GRIFFITHS	2012
87	Norman	HARMAN	2013
88	Brian	HARRIS	2013
89	Rebecca	HART	2013
90	John	HARVEY	2011
91	Andrew	HAWKESWORTH	2014
92	William	HAWKINS	2012
93	William	HEATH	2012
94	Dwight	HEDDLE	2012
95	Gerald	HERNANDEZ	2013
96	Simon	HEYS	2018
97	Geraldine	HIGGINS	PSNR
98	Pete	HOLMAN	2015
99	Clifford	HOWES	2013
100	John	HUDSON	2014
101	Rita	HUDSON	PSNR

No	First Name	SURNAME	Year
102	Howard	HUGHES	2019
103	Jacqueline	HUGHES	2017
104	Roger	HUGHES	2014
105	Terry	HUGHES	2016
106	Yvonne	HUGHES	2011
107	John	HUMPHRIES	2011
108	Colon	HUNTER	2013
109	Pat	HYNES	2013
110	Peter	IVE	2012
111	John	JACKETT	2017
112	John	JACKSON	2018
113	Kerry	JAMES	2013
114	Raymond	JENNINGS	2022
115	Ronald	JESSIMAN	2011
116	David	JOHNSON	2014
117	Michael	JONES	New
118	Samuel	JONES	2014
119	James	JOWETT	2014
120	Joseph	KELLY	2014
121	Brig Neil	KELLY	2011
122	William	KENEFEC	2011
123	Colin	KENNEDY	2016
124	Ian	KENNEDY	2014
125	Donald	KENT	2011
126	Arthur	KERR	2015
127	Mavis	KIRK	2016
128	Julian	KOSTYSZYN	2015
129	Cyril	LACEY	2013
130	Mike	LAMBERT	2013
131	Frederick	LATHAM	2013
132	Gerald	LAUDER	2014
133	William	LAWRENSON	2013
134	Frank	LEA	2017
135	Harry	LEES	2011
136	Jean	LEGG	2013
137	Richard	LEGG	2013
138	Herbert	LEIGHTON	2016
139	Kathleen	LEIGHTON	PSNR
140	Alistair	LENNIE	2015
141	Brian	LEVEY	2013
142	Penny	LIDDICOT	2014
143	Barry	LINDEN	2017
144	Ian	LISTER	2016

No	First Name	SURNAME	Year
145	Herbert	LOCKWOOD	2010
146	Norman	LOCKWOOD	2012
147	Marian	LOVERIDGE	2014
148	June	LOWE	2012
149	Raymond	LYALL	2012
150	Edward	LYONS	2013
151	George	MADGIN	2012
152	Gerald	MAGUIRE	2014
153	Geoffrey	MANNING	2015
154	Patrick	MARSHALL	2011
155	Peter	MASLIN	2014
156	Mary	MCCABE	2013
157	Sean	MCARTHY	2014
158	John	MCGOVERN	2015
159	Robert	MCKEEVER	2014
160	Billy	MCLEOD	2014
161	Ann	MCLEOD	2014
162	Adam	MCQUILLAN	2015
163	Lara	MEACHER	2011
164	Charles	MEACHER	2011
165	Graham	MEACHER	2017
166	David	MILSTEAD	2012
167	Raymond	MITCHELL	2013
168	Marie	MONAGHAN	2010
169	Paul	MORRIS	2015
170	David	MUCKLE	2014
171	Ronald	MURREY	2013
172	Christopher	NELSON	2011
173	Rodney	NORMAN	2013
174	Tomas	O GRADY	2011
175	Neville	ORTON	2010
176	Keith	OXER	2018
177	John	PALMER	2011
178	Steve	PATCH	2015
179	Lawrence	PEACOCK	2013
180	Gillian	PEACOCK	PSNR
181	Lennox	PERKINS	2013
182	Adrian	PROSSER	2017
183	Sharon	PROWSE	New
184	Eddie	REA	SO 2011
185	Edward	REARDON	2014
186	Ella	REAST	2012
187	Peter	REDFERN	2015

No	First Name	SURNAME	Year
188	Arthur	ROBINSON	2012
189	Robert	ROBINSON	2011
190	Joan	ROUND	2015
191	Bryan	ROWNEY	2014
192	Geoffrey	SALMON	2016
193	Elizabeth	SAMPSON	2012
194	John	SAMUEL	2016
195	Valerie	SANDERS	2015
196	Tommy	SANDS	2014
197	Howard	SCOTT	2013
198	James	SEAR	2016
199	Mark	SEARLE	2012
200	Aidan	SHOEBRIDGE	2015
201	John	SHOULDER	2013
202	Richard	SILSBY	2014
203	Neil	SIMMS	2013
204	William	SKEEL	2013
205	Eddie	SMITH	2012
206	Gordon	SMITH	2017
207	Ian	SMITH	2010
208	Kenneth	SMITH	2014
209	Alan	STANDING	2014
210	James	STEER	2017
211	Paul	STODDART	2013
212	Edward	STUART	2012
213	Norman	SUSSEX	2015
214	Pamela	SUSSEX	2014
215	Douglas	SWANSON	2012
216	Gordon	TAIT	2011
217	David	TEDDER	2013
218	Ivor	THOMAS	2011
219	Frederick	THOMPSON	2013
220	David	THORNTON	2011
221	Charles	TIMOTHY	2011
222	Ken	TREVOR	2016
223	George	URBAN	2011
224	David	VAUTIER	2013
225	Maurice	VESSEY	2014
226	Roy	WALKER	2014
227	Albert	WALL	2011
228	Douglas	WALTER	2016
229	Gordon	WARDELL	2013

No	First Name	SURNAME	Year
230	Frances	WARDELL	2013
231	Derek	WATT	2013
232	Margret	WATT	2013
233	Peter	WESCOTT	2015
234	Stephen	WHITE	2014
235	Michael	WHITEHEAD	2013
236	John	WHITTAKER	2011
237	Dennis	WHITTALL	2014
238	Barry	WILDING	2011
239	Robert	WILLIAMS	2013
240	Eric	WILLIAMSON	New
241	William	WINFIELD	2011
242	John	WINTERBOTTOM	2012
243	Edward	WOLTON	2016
244	Edward	WOOFFITT	2012
245	Stewart	WRIGHT	New

Payment code:

2013	Year subs paid up to
Life	Life Member
PSNR	Partner Subs Not Required
New	New member
SO 2011	Subs Outstanding from that Year.

De Vere Village Hotel

Cheadle Manchester

ROYAL ENGINEERS (POSTAL & COURIER SERVICE)

Royal Engineers Association.

ANNUAL GALA DINNER /REUNION

4TH, 5TH(Gala Night) AND 6TH APRIL 2014

To make a reservation, telephone 0844 980 0232 and quote **ROYA040414**.

A deposit of £25 per room and £10 per dinner is required with the remainder paid in full 6 weeks prior to the event. 40 rooms have been pre booked for Friday the 4th April 2014 and 70 rooms for Saturday the 5th. These rooms will be held for us until 6 weeks prior to the event and any untaken rooms will be released back to general sale at a higher price.

Accommodation Rates £85 Per Room Per Night including Breakfast	Costs		
Dates Required	4 th April 14	5 th April 14 (Gala Night)	6 th April 14
Single Bed, B&B £85 per room	£85	£170	£255
Double Bed, B&B £85 per room	£85	£170	£255
Gala Dinner Saturday Night extra payment required of £25 per person (To the Hotel)		Plus (Sat 2 Meals x £25 = £50) £220	Plus (Sat 2 Meals x £25 = £50) £305

Address: De Vere Village Hotel
Cheadle Road
Cheadle
SK8 1HU`