



ROA NEWS

On-line Edition August 2022

Message from Chairman



As we are now in the last month of summer, I hope that you have all enjoyed yourselves. Wherever you spent it, being at home in the garden or on holiday in some exotic far flung corner I am certain that the freedom we have had from COVID restrictions has been a great relief.

The ROA has been fairly quiet this past while, although sadly we have lost a small number of members in recent times. Their obituaries are published on the ROA website. It is always a sad task that I undertake in sending a Sympathy Card to the Next of Kin although unfortunately there are a few occasions when this is not possible owing to a lengthy delay in being notified of the members passing.

Hopefully before many weeks have past, I will be able to publish the Application Form for the AGM/Reunion 2023. Once that has been approved by the Committee then it will be published to the membership as a whole. We, as an Association, are fully aware that life in the twenties is very different to what it was ten years ago. Hence, we are trying to keep abreast of developments as they are met.

On the 15th July, Jenny and myself, joined by Ken and Sylvia Hicks, attended the final Passing Out Parade at Wethersfield. So many mixed emotions, some good, some bad. That said it was a real pleasure to see and meet so many of the families and friends who attended the event. Sadly, there was no band present only piped music and a lone Piper, who marched the parade on and off the Parade Square. I was very unhappy to see the state that Wethersfield has become, a ghost town. It will be interesting to see that by moving to Southwick Park and Scotland will be in the best interest of MDP. Time will tell.

Annual Contribution

The annual subscription of £5 per household falls due on 1st July each year, regardless of the date one joins the Association. Most members now pay this by Standing Order or Direct Debit on or about this date, for which the committee are very grateful. This can also be paid by Bacs or Faster Payment directly through your bank or by cheque if preferred.

If any member wishes to alter their method of payment or requires details of sort code and account number and any other details, please contact the treasurer via our new email address - mdproa2021@yahoo.com or general mail to :- The Pippins, Mill Road, HARDWICK, NR15 2ST . This address should also be used for sending ROA cheques etc. Please note that cheques should be made out to **MoD Police R O A** in future, (not MDP) the banks are becoming increasingly demanding in precise names.

Final Pass Out Parade at Wethersfield

On Friday 15 July, the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) held its final Pass Out Parade at Wethersfield, following the Force's move of Headquarters to RAF Wyton earlier this year, and with training due to transfer to Southwick Park, Hampshire during August.

Pass Out Parade events for new recruits to mark the end of their training, and celebrate with friends and family, have been held at the former US airbase in Wethersfield every year the MDP has been recruiting, since the Force relocated there in 1995. The only exception to this was during the COVID-19 pandemic when there were no parade events.

The final event also saw the digging up of the time capsule buried outside the Headquarters building, under the flag poles, during a special ceremony to mark the Force's 25th anniversary in 1996. It was to have been dug up 25 years later, on the MDP's 50th Anniversary and although the MDP celebrated its half century on 1 October 2021, it was decided to delay the



lifting of the time capsule until the last pass out parade event to take place at Wethersfield.

Chief Constable Andy Adams said:

“The raising of the time capsule at our final Pass Out Parade at Wethersfield, during what is still the 50th year of the MDP, is particularly fitting as we prepare to fully vacate the Wethersfield site, when training begins at Southwick Park in August. This is an exciting time of change for the Force and whilst we reflect on the years gone by, we are very much focused on the future. With that in mind, during October we will be burying a new time capsule outside our new Headquarters at Palmer Pavilion, RAF Wyton, during our official opening ceremony. That time capsule will then be raised again in 25 years' time, to mark the MDP's 75th Anniversary.”

The time capsule contained:

- a collection of memorabilia, including several corporate documents and a truncheon
- Passing Out Programmes and a class list from the year of the Force's 25th anniversary when there was only one intake of 39 recruits
- prospectus documents from local schools invited to contribute, including one from the Wethersfield C of E Primary School
- personal artifacts, such as postcards and pictures, from MDP families
- a West Ham Football programme from 1996
- a copy of the Sunday Times

- previous editions of Talk Through — The magazine of the Ministry of Defence Police
- artwork of MDP officers and their capabilities, and the MDP Band, which played at Passing Out ceremonies from 1987 to 2000
- some more unusual items, including a stamp collection belonging to former MDP Deputy Chief Constable Anthony V Comben
- and beer bottle labels from the commemorative ale produced for the Force's 25th anniversary by Ridley's Brewery

ROA Chairman Geoff Heal and Treasurer Ken Hicks together with their wives Jenny and Sylvia were pleased to represent ROA at the pass out parade and congratulate the new recruits who graduated.



Money worries? Support is available from The Charity for Civil Servants

Whatever your role within the Civil Service, you'll be impacted by the rising costs of living, whether that be energy costs, fuel for your car or the cost of your weekly shop.

The Charity for Civil Servants can [help with all sorts of financial issues](#) caused by an unexpected change in circumstances - whether your income has suddenly reduced or you're unable to pay for essential items that need replacing.

[Sign up](#) to receive regular updates about the help and support provided by the Charity. And if you know anyone else who could benefit from hearing about the Charity's support, please do share this with them.

The Charity for Civil Servants supports all current, former and retired civil servants throughout their lives, listening without judgement and offering practical, financial and emotional support.

Are your pension details up to date!

It is important to keep the Civil Service Pension administrator – MyCSP up to date with your personal details especially your home address, contact details and if recently retired your death benefit nomination. You can do this by calling 0300 123 6666 or by registering with the Pension Portal at www.members.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk

In Memoriam

Alexander Connor – 19th May 2022

Melvyn (Lofty) Waterman – 19th July 2022



Retired member Paul Kerry passed away in **October 2012** and his wife Doreen has written a tribute to her husband which we are happy to publish as follows.

Having left school at the age of 18 Paul already knew he wanted to be a Police Officer and took up his first post as a constable in June 1977 after having passed out at Ashford training college upon which he was stationed at Horley Police Station in Surrey.

Having then joined the Ministry of Defence Police in 1979 he was stationed at RARDE Fort Halstead then sent to USAF Greenham Common in 1983. A promotion to sergeant in 1984 meant a transfer to ROF Bridgwater and in 1989 he spent a year at MDP Duke of York Barracks and the US Naval base in Ruislip.

In October 1990 Paul was transferred to HMNB Devonport on promotion to Inspector then moving from shift inspector to inspector of operations at MDPHQ in 1993.

Transferred to the Royal Naval Air Station in Culdrose in 1996, he then took up a new posting to RMCS Shrivenham in 1998 and from there was posted to JSU Corsham where the decision to take early voluntary retirement in March 2012 was not one he had taken lightly so passed up the offer of a further job promotion so as not to have to uproot his family who were settled in Swindon.

Paul was the youngest of all Police Search Advisors (POLSA) and had undertaken in excess of 200 venue searches for IED's by the time he left the force. In receipt of the both the Queens Golden Jubilee Medal and Diamond Jubilee Medal, he also received the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for which his 33 years in the Force was described by the Chief Constable as 'exemplary.'

Paul joined the TAVR in November 1975 as a signalman with 39th (City of London) Royal Signals Regiment and it was there that he met Doreen in 1976. They got married in 1977 and were heading towards their 35th wedding anniversary when his life was cut short in hospital through no fault of his own 11 days short of that.

Still shocked by the events that led to her husband being taken away from her when he was looking forward to his retirement after having given so much time to his job for which she had supported him throughout, she set to write her memoirs as a tribute to him in which she hopes some of his colleagues may look fondly back on the times they had spent with him described as 'the best boss ever.'

Paul was also survived not only by his wife but also daughters Laura and Lisa, son Paul, and grandchildren Jay, Billy, Lola and Brooke.

As the 10th anniversary of Paul's death approaches any money from the sale of her books will be turned into a lasting memorial.

Here is the link and her contact details.

doreenkerry56@yahoo.co.uk

[Doreen Kerry](#) [Books Archive - Mereos Books](#)