

The Magazine of the
Ministry of Defence Police



Talk through

The Force at 40

SPECIAL EDITION to mark the 40th anniversary
of the founding of the Ministry of Defence Police



Issue 149 Autumn 2011

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FRONT COVER:
CC Steve Love (left) and DCC Gerry McAuley in their modern police uniforms, pose outside MDP HQ Wethersfield with an exhibit from the Force history display, kindly arranged by Museum Curator Keith Heather

Photograph by Paul Kemp

1971



2011

A tremendous story to tell . . .

By Chief Constable Steve Love

■ It is a pleasure and a privilege to introduce this, the MDP 40th Anniversary edition of TalkThrough. The idea of basing it on the reminiscences of the people who go all or most of the way back came from one of our own officers and I think it is really a good one.

I myself can only track the MDP back as far as 1985 when, as a newly appointed Inspector in the previously tranquil district of Huntingdon, I found myself in the front seat of the personnel carrier which led the entire convoy of police vehicles and military trucks to RAF Molesworth, on the first night of its reoccupation by the MOD to house cruise missiles. Thus commenced two years of close engagement with the MDP, forged through 12-hour night shifts, cold, mud, and fry ups on paper plates in the NAAFI.



Little did I, or for that matter they, realise that one day I would be the Chief Constable. I have really enjoyed observing and being part of the development of the MDP's top end Defence policing, rather more than I am enjoying the present budget cuts.

But I think the MDP has a tremendous story to tell, and a story that we can all take pride in. The people who tell it best, and who should take the most pride in it, are those who have been on the journey of the last 40 years. So read on . . .

Talk Through

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We welcome articles and photos of interest to readers, but reserve the right to shorten/edit contributions.

Staff contributing articles should ensure they are suitable for open publication. If you would like to discuss your contribution, please contact the Editor.



A Force with a proud history

By Deputy Chief Constable Gerry McAuley

“ I would like to thank everyone who contributed so many wonderful memories for this special edition to mark the 40th anniversary of the MDP.

Retired and serving officers, as well as our civilian staff, have dug deep and shared their stories which can now be captured for the Force archive.

Your memories have covered the country and even hinted at our role in the last days of empire, with overseas CID investigations.

What struck me when I read the early draft of this edition is how fondly so many people have remembered their association with the MDP and its forebears and just how much the MDP has been integral to the big strategic events in the recent military history of the UK.

From the arrival of Polaris and the development and deployment of its successor Trident, to the pivotal Cold-War decision to deploy US Cruise Missiles to the UK,

two Gulf conflicts, the Falklands and now Afghanistan, with MDP colleagues serving today in theatre.

The MDP has always been a secure and reliable source of policing and security in times of crisis. Colleagues past and present should take pride in that.

But some of the smaller stories form the backbone of our daily duties and some of these are included too. I really did laugh out loud at some of them and I hope you will too.

One of my own prized possessions is a battered old 'R.M. Police' leather notebook wallet with an Admiralty Constabulary notebook inside stamped 9 November 1965 and issued to a Constable McAuley – Recruits Course No 84 Class No2.

My Dad is not around to read this special edition but your memories of those days, the birth of the MDP and our development into today's top-end protective security police force is a story worth preserving – and telling – with pride.



In the beginning...a brief history of the MDP

By Judith Slater
Photographs courtesy of 'Then and Now' magazine

■ The Ministry of Defence Police was created on October 1st, 1971, by combining the Admiralty, Army Departments and Air Force Constabularies and so, with this special edition of TalkThrough, we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Force's foundation.

It followed the amalgamation of specialist services to the Army, Navy and Air Force, including policing, which had been preceded by major changes in 1965 when the three Services, up until then separate organisations, controlled by the distinct Boards, each with their own Cabinet Ministers, were put under the control of one Minister of State for Defence.

And before then . . .

As recorded in 'Then and Now', compiled by H.E. Barlow of the former MOD Police Northern Area HQ, Rosyth, and updated in 1997, the origins of the Ministry of Defence Police can be traced back to 1574 at Chatham Dockyard. It later became the first 'force' of Porters, Rounders, Warders and Watchmen, set up to guard the Naval Dockyards as a result of Samuel Pepys' Instructions of 1686. They were disbanded in 1834 and the first Dockyard Police Force was formed, only a few years after the Metropolitan Police – Sir Robert Peel's 'Peelers' – was created, in 1829.

Special Constables for the Dockyards were sworn in, under an oath which gave them full police powers within the limits of the Dockyards. Later they were granted additional powers, to extend to a radius of five miles outside the yards. They received good wages and rewards: in 1895 a payment of £2.10s.0d. for those 'who detected persons embezzling



Government Stores after such persons had been found guilty in a summary court and similar payments up to £10 in cases where offenders were convicted on indictment.' They also received a free issue of clothing but had to pay five shillings on leaving 'to pay for altering his clothing to fit his successor.'

After a damning inquiry, set up by the Admiralty, and carried out by the Metropolitan Police, and after only 26 years in existence, the Dockyard Police was closed down.

Metropolitan Police - 1860

For the next 75 years, the Metropolitan Police took over policing of the Dockyards, with authority granted to operate outside its own Metropolitan District and the Naval Establishments, which were now its responsibility. Under an Act of Parliament in 1860, it took over policing of Portsmouth and Devonport Dockyards and the other Naval Establishments came under its authority soon afterwards.

It now had jurisdiction over a 15-mile radius outside each establishment 'in respect of the property of the Crown, or persons subject to Naval or Military discipline.' For the first time, the Met was also given powers to police certain Army Establishments.

In 1865, the Admiralty Powers Act made the Admiral at each Yard both a Superintendent and a Magistrate. The Admirals heard cases brought before them by the Metropolitan Police and they could also issue Search Warrants.

Many of the traditions of the Dockyard Police, and Watchmen before them, were carried on by the Metropolitan Police, such as that of firemen. They also carried Deputations from HM Customs and Excise to assist in prevention of smuggling and were responsible for seeing that Convicts working in the Yard did not loiter or evade work. They also formed a Water Police Branch.





The Royal Marine Police - 1922

After the First World War, the Geddes Committee in 1922 recommended withdrawing the Metropolitan Police from the Dockyards and the Admiralty decided to replace it with the Royal Marine Police, as from 13th October 1922. Its members were sworn in as Special Constables under the Act of the same name in 1923. They were mostly retired members of the Corps of Royal Marines and all subject to military law under The Army Act. A Chief Constable was elected in 1932.

During the Second World War recruitment was a problem and so the rules were softened to permit ex-Servicemen from any branch of the Armed Forces to enlist in a new section, called the Royal Marine Police Special Reserve. A third force, known as the Admiralty Civil Police, was formed and anyone could join; many did so as an alternative to joining the Armed Forces.

So, by the end of the War, the Admiralty had three Police Forces, each with its own conditions of service and discipline, but under the same Chief Constable. In October 1949, the inevitable happened, and they were all disbanded, to form the Admiralty Constabulary.



The Admiralty Constabulary - 1949

It consisted of 3,500 men, policing around 150 establishments in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The three-week training course of the Royal Marine Police was deemed insufficient and a Training School was set up. The successful volunteer Instructors were themselves given proper training for the job, and sent on a six-month course at local Police Colleges. Former members of the Admiralty Constabulary also had to undergo training, but for them it was a six-week course at the new School.

With better training, came requests for up-to-date equipment and so mobile units were brought in, vehicles were equipped with radios and personal 'walkie-talkie' sets distributed. The water police were given modern boats as well.

The War Office - Army Department

In 1925, the Army formed a police Force of its own, called M15. Shortly afterwards, the War Department Constabulary was also created under the Metropolitan Police Act 1860, whereby it had jurisdiction 75 miles from its yards or station, 'with regard to property of the Crown or of persons subject to Naval, Marine or Military discipline.' This Act was later to include Scotland.

This Force policed some 60 stations throughout the UK for the War Office, plus a number of Ministry of Aviation establishments, with some duties in London. It also took over the security of the Royal Mint. Initially, it was 2,100 strong but later 300 officers transferred to the newly formed UK

Atomic Energy Authority Constabulary, which replaced the former War Department's Constabulary at certain nuclear facilities.

The Force was later renamed Army Department Constabulary in 1964, when the War Office became the Army Department.



The Air Ministry - Air Force Department

From 1925, with the Special Constables Act, warders who had previously, without police powers, manned stations of the former Air Ministry, were sworn in as Special Constables and were later called Air Ministry Constables. The previous Metropolitan Police and County Constables who had also protected these Air Ministry stations were gradually withdrawn.

After a peak in numbers of 3,530 during the Second World War, their numbers reduced to around 1,155 men as the RAF also reduced in size after the War and the Air Ministry let go control over Civil Airports.

In 1942 a Superintendent was appointed to RAF Maintenance Command, the main user of the Constabulary, to advise on police matters. This post then moved in the same year to the Air Ministry. In 1945, to centralise control further, a Chief Constable was appointed.

In 1964, the Air Ministry became the Air Force Department and the police force was also renamed the Air Force Department Constabulary.

1971- the story comes full circle

Several dates stand out in the history of the MDP, the first being its official formation under its current name in 1971. The first Chief Constable was Mr F A Seward (1971-72) who came straight from his post as Chief Constable Admiralty Constabulary and Inspector of Overseas Police, a job he'd held for five years. Before that, he was the Chief Officer, Admiralty Constabulary Malta from 1959. Mr Seward served during the War years as a sub-lieutenant and lieutenant commander with the Royal Navy Reserve.

The next significant date must be the Ministry of Defence Police Act of 1987 whereby Parliament recognised the MDP as a distinct police Force. This coincided with the time J R T Bailey was Chief Constable (1977-85). All officers within the MDP from that date have been attested as Constables, as laid down within Section 1 (2) of the Ministry of Defence Police Act 1987, and are granted the 'powers and privileges of constables' in any place within the UK which falls within their jurisdiction.



A third significant date is 1996, during the term served by Chief Constable Walter Boreham (1994-2000) when the Ministry of Defence Police became a Defence Agency.

This was the first Force in the British Police Service to become an Agency, with the Chief Constable being given the additional title of 'Chief Executive'.



HRH the Princess Royal with the then Chief Constable Walter Boreham, at the official opening of MDP HQ Wethersfield on 5 September 1995

every member of the Force, police and civilian. We will need to constantly enhance our effectiveness and efficiency but the Force will face such challenges with the same determination that has punctuated our history."

The modern Force

By Norman Hicks

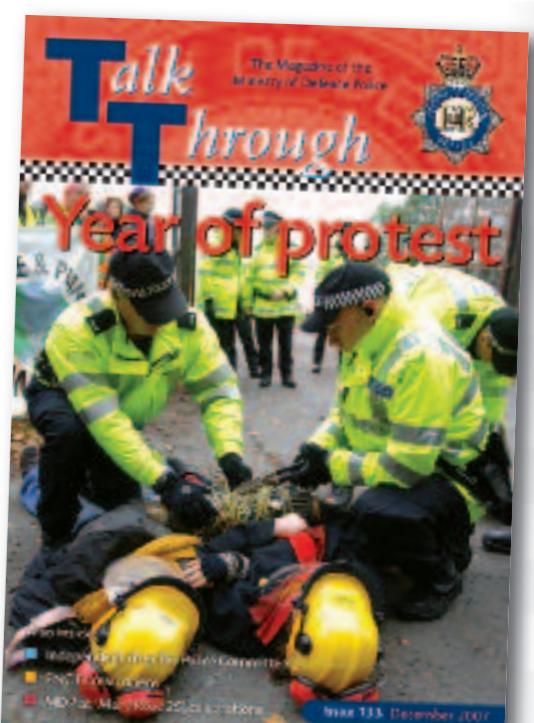
The story of the modern Force is one of continuous improvement, with successive Chief Constables and their senior colleagues pushing the MDP towards the goal of creating a specialist, niche and high value policing organisation.

National standards have been achieved and often exceeded in areas such as firearms, policing protest, overseas policing and fraud prevention and detection.

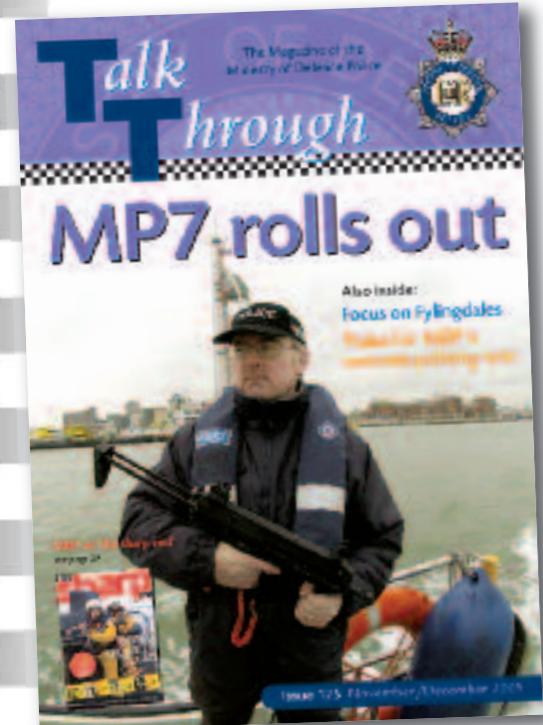
From Greenham Common in the 1980s and 90s, through to 'Faslane 365' in the Noughties, MDP officers have been at the forefront of maintaining law and order whilst at the same time allowing legitimate protest.

Highly skilled Protester Removal Teams have developed over the years that have acquired the techniques needed to remove blockades outside sensitive sites around the country.

Operational Support Units and Divisional Support Groups have



CONTINUED ...



its prevention and detection work over the years.

The overseas policing tasks taken on by the Force have all been executed to a very high standard, with missions in Kosovo, Iraq, Pitcairn and Afghanistan among the highlights.

The conduct of royal protection duties for the Princes William and Harry, during their military training and UK deployments, has also done much to enhance the Force's reputation for being a 'safe pair of hands' when a sensitive task requires completion.

In the wake of terrorist incidents on the UK mainland the Force took on enhanced patrolling of the Government Security Zone in Central London and also played its part in conducting Stop and Search activities in the capital.

The Marine Unit has grown to become the largest of any UK police force, with the latest 'Island' class of vessels providing enhanced maritime capability at some of the MOD's most critical installations.

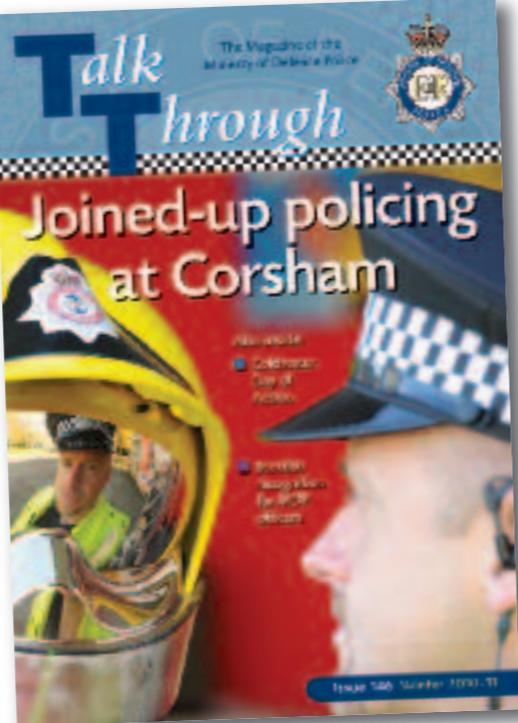


The CID department has scored some notable successes and the Fraud Squad too has gained an excellent reputation for

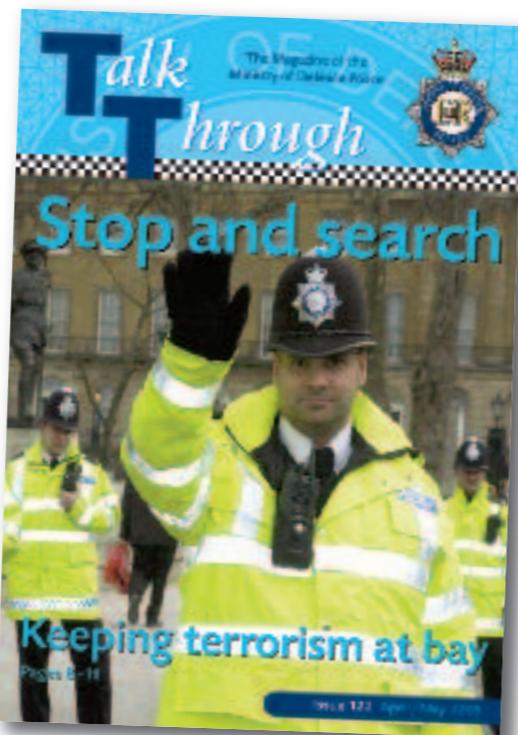
The Force has taken over responsibility for guarding nuclear weapons convoys in addition to its policing role at such locations as the Atomic Weapons Establishments at Aldermaston and Burghfield and the Naval Bases on the Clyde, from which the Trident missile delivery system and continuous at sea deterrence submarines operate.

Project Unity in 2004 saw MDP and MGS linked under one Agency umbrella to provide 'two badges, one service' with the unarmed guarding element having achieved the highest industry standard since then.

The development in recent years of the Unit Beat Officer and Defence Community Police Officer concepts enabled the Force to provide enhanced support to Service families,



It will be for a future TalkThrough to reflect on those changes when we come to celebrate the 50th anniversary in 2021.



especially during the MOD's Main Effort in Afghanistan.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review of last year will have a significant impact upon the future of the Force, but the details have yet to be finalised and are currently subject to deep scrutiny and wide consultation.

Special Memories

TalkThrough is delighted to have heard from some of the officers who joined various departments of the Service police just prior to the amalgamation of Departmental Constabularies in October 1971.

There are other contributors as well; All are welcome as they paint a picture of what it was like to be working for MDP in years gone by.

A list of all those recruited pre-October 1971, and still working for the Ministry of Defence Police on 1 October 2011 have been kindly compiled by Sgt Adrian Rookes:

AEA Constabulary	
Gordon Timmins	01.06.1971
Army Department Constabulary	
Dave Gibbs	20.09.1971
Christopher Clamp	05.10.1970
Admiralty Constabulary	
Paul Cawse	06.01.1969
Allen Morgan	15.12.1969
Adrian Rookes	06.04.1970
Andy Stewart	12.10.1970
Barrie Brown	13.11.1967
James Pardon	27.01.1969
Air Force Department Constabulary	
Robin Hall	01.06.1971
Raymond Tidswell	23.09.1966
Phil Lowe	02.08.1971
Mike Hallard	05.01.1970

Sgt Ray Tidswell

We start with our longest serving officer Sgt Ray Tidswell, currently serving at HMNB Clyde.

According to the copy of his 'Recruitment - Air Force Department Constabulary' letter of 15th August 1966 he was to report for duty, having successfully completed his interview, on 23rd September 1966. Ray was based at



Sgt Ray Tidswell

Compiled by Judith Slater
Photos: supplied

September 1972 – With impending closure, I transferred to RAF Fairford in the halcyon days of the Concorde flight testing. I also served detachments at RAF Aldergrove, Farnborough and RAF Locking, whose SPO was ex-ACC Jack Reade.

September 1974 – I transferred to United Kingdom Land Forces, Wilton, Salisbury where I qualified for promotion. I served under John Bowyer, Insp Eric Pounder and completed detached duties at Greenham Common, Upper Heyford and Salisbury Plain.

December 1983 – Promoted to Sergeant and transferred to HMNB Portsmouth, where I served under Supt Bill Grainger, Malcolm 'Bamber' White and Dave Hurrell.

March 1986 – I transferred to RNAD Coulport under SPO Supt Reade. To develop my experience, I supervised the following police officers, now well-known within MDP circles:

DCC Gerry McAuley: A Constable on 1 Section, he qualified as Inspector whilst still a PC at Coulport. He carried out many acting duties. I remember his Section Insp Helen Webb, who appeared to have a 'soft spot' for him.

ACC Dave Allard: Although I was aware that he'd been successful at the Board in 1986, I was sworn to secrecy by Jack Reade until he had been informed personally. Mr Allard asked me if I knew the results. I said 'No', and then felt guilty! When he was eventually told, I remember saying, 'You can call me Ray as I will probably call you 'Sir' one day.'

He later became an AES Dog Sergt whose dog, Benji, once left a 'pile' on my office floor.

Ch Supt Ray Morrison: He spent a lot of time in the Control Building of the Polaris Special Area at Coulport. He transferred to Clyde on promotion.

All three officers qualified for promotion to Inspector whilst still Constables.

T/Supt Jim Gillen: He was an ex-car salesman and joined in 1987, I believe.

CONTINUED ...

He served on 2 Section at Coulport and was Chair of the Coulport Yorkhill 5B Fund and elected on to the Committee. We were seeking a prize for a raffle and he suggested a car and Jim 'Arthur Daley' Gillen offered to obtain a Fiat Panda. One day, whilst signing his note book, I told him he'd go far: but I didn't mean his subsequent job with IPSO!

August 1987 – I was appointed Training Sergt by the SPO and took part in devising training systems in Scotland. I was coordinator for the Investors in People programme and the Assistant EO Officer.

1988 – In my capacity as Training Sergt, I was responsible for the organisation of the then two-year Probationer Training Programme. At one point, Coulport had 160 plus officers within their probation period. I was instrumental in introducing OSPRE training into Scotland and spent many a laborious hour organising pre-Part 2 Workshops.

A high point was receiving a Commendation from the Deputy Director, Royal Naval College Greenwich on my Nuclear training content.

April 1998 – I was appointed Scotland Division Training Sergt, based at HMNB Clyde, where I continued to develop training within Scotland.

April 2005 – I was transferred as SPO to RNAS Prestwick.

July 2008 – Closure of this station resulted in my transfer to HMNB Clyde but I was immediately detached to the Divisional HQ next door. My speciality is Nuclear Safety Training, assisting the Ops Support team and Business Continuity. I write exercises, sharing these with other Divisional BC Focal Point and MGS, and organise their delivery.

Anecdotes

In 1974, I owned an MG1100 which had seen better days; there were no carpets as they became soaked as soon as it rained. I was driving my boss, Insp Tom Adams, through the Dockyard when I had to stop suddenly. The resulting tidal wave soaked his new shoes. Now, Insp Adams was the epitome of a DI; he was immaculate. He looked at his feet, then me, and said: 'I have a friend who had one of these – that was crap as well!'

1975 – As a CID aide in Western Area HQ, investigating a theft, it resulted in my cautioning the accused in his house. I said to him, on leaving, 'So, the next time I see you will be in Court.' My car wouldn't start. There were no mobile 'phones in those days so I had to knock on the

accused's door and ask if I could use his 'phone. I remember he gave me a cup of tea whilst I waited for the AA!

On my first day in CID, I was determined to make a good impression. I had a new briefcase. It was a windy day and, as I got out of my car, the case flipped open and all my paperwork blew away.

Summary

I've enjoyed my time in the MDP and have endured both happy and sad occasions. I believe the job is what you make it. My biggest passion was recruitment; I was an assessor for both the Bramshill systems and the subsequent NPIA.

I'm still here, keener today than 45 years ago. I sincerely believe the MDP will survive the latest changes because steering us are managers who have policing backgrounds, not Military, as was once the norm.



Ch Insp Phil Lowe

Chief Insp Phil Lowe

Chief Inspector Phil Lowe, recruited in August 1971, until recently worked at Western Div HQ.

"I joined the Air Force Department Constabulary on 2 August 1971, with six weeks' training at RAF Debden, Essex. The Chief Instructor was Ch Insp George Kerr and our Class Instructor was Sub Insp Basil Ponton, father of Insp Graham Ponton. Endless hours learning about Judges' Rules and the Public Stores Act.

The highlight was the firearms training, marching as a class to the other side of the airfield, firing six shots from a revolver into a pile of rubble and marching back. All this for just over £1,000 per year, less £12 for a rented quarter.

My first station was RAF Burtonwood, an American army depot. Its claim to

fame is that the M62 motorway runs along what was the main runway, the traffic at a slightly slower speed than the 4-litre jeep supplied as a police patrol car.

I moved to Spadeadam, Cumbria, in 1974 patrolling 13,000 acres of forest, occasionally checking derelict buildings. The towers for the Blue Streak rockets were interesting.

I moved, on promotion, to RAF Birtley, near Newcastle in 1978, to take charge of a section of ex-WW2 veterans, one of whom told us how he'd escaped from the Nazis to live with Polish partisans. We lived in a pre-fabricated married quarters with natural air conditioning. We could see outside through the gaps in the cladding!

I moved again on promotion to CSB Faslane in 1980. There were a total of 79 officers with nine PCs on nights, most of whom were on fixed posts. Just the set-up to deal with boisterous sailors from HMS Neptune on Saturday nights! I remember seeing HMS Conqueror coming up the Gareloch sporting the Jolly Roger after sinking the Belgrano in the Falklands. I also recall the 'Peace Camp' in early 1982; it's still there.

Protests in the '80s

Two years later, I moved to RAF Stafford, as Deputy SPO. Just after I arrived, Supt Jock Moir was appointed SPO which somewhat devalued my status. Still – out of adversity ... I was 'specially selected' to work with Ch Insp Dave Boulter to form the PSU (now OSU) at RAF Wittering. This was at the height of the '80s protest activity at Molesworth and Greenham Common, Coulport, Faslane and the Salisbury Plain area.

These were exciting times for the Force. Many serving officers will remember the long hours at Molesworth and on Salisbury Plain. We were the first UK Police Force to train women in public order techniques. An individual, arrested by one of our female officers, who was wearing public order clothing, expressed his surprise when she removed her helmet!

Not all public order incidents involved the use of force. I remember when a group of female demonstrators, all wheelchair-bound, decided as a matter of conscience to take a stand against the deployment of American nuclear weapons at Molesworth. They were each equipped with a hacksaw blade and, on a signal, would move towards the fence and begin sawing.

This was a symbolic gesture and one we were aware of beforehand. I stationed

a PC behind each woman and one PC on the inside of the fence, armed with a Found Property Register. As soon as each woman began sawing, a PC would reach over, take the hacksaw blade and pass it through the fence to the officer on the inside.

They were advised that if they wanted their blades back, they could attend the police office after the demonstration. They were hugely relieved. They really didn't want to be arrested; just make a point. They thanked us profusely. These demonstrators never did request their hacksaw blades back. The added bonus was that my officers were freed up to deal with a group of well-known 'climbers', who were expected imminently.

In 1987 I moved as SPO to RAF Chilmark, or 'Sleepy Hollow', an armament depot. On my first day, a man came to the office window, apparently to hand in some keys, but actually to tell the officer: 'The keys to Ham Cross site are under a stone by the gate'. This was a site where 500lb bombs were kept in railway sidings!

As a qualified PolSA, I went around the country with search-qualified sergeants (including Insp Gordon Peters and Supt Joe Elder) to train our teams. We trained around 220 officers within four years. Included were Coulport and Faslane, Rosyth, Woolwich, Portsmouth, Devonport and Hereford. Two of my students on the Clyde were young 'fresh-faced' sergeants: David Allard and Andy Kirkwood. For the record, I did manage to booby-trap Andy's trainer!

Unit Beat Officers

Next move was to Larkhill, in 1991, a garrison with a large chunk of the Salisbury Plain Training Area. I appointed PC Andy Gale as the Unit Beat Officer. He was the first in a long line of excellent officers in this role. Les Roper followed and then the Divisional Commander at the time, Ch Supt Sid Mason, agreed to fund a six months' trial at Bulford, carried out by Viv Phillips. So successful was it that it became fully funded after the trial. Warminster, Blandford and Bovington soon followed.

During a time when Viv was co-located with RMP, Maj Phil Bailey was OC 158 Provost Coy at Bulford. Phil, as a full Colonel, later carried out the Land Review leading to the establishment of UBOs nationally. It is no coincidence that Phil's first-hand knowledge of what could be achieved by a single dedicated MDP officer influenced the eventual decision by the Army (and subsequently the Navy and Air Force) to expand the concept nationally.

I was technically the APT Coordinator, with APTs at Woolwich, Whitehall, Mill Hill, Feltham and Colchester. In practice, I was the Operations Chief Inspector covering London and East Anglia.



Ch Insp Phil Lowe with PC Jarra Brown

In 1994, the APT was born. I ran the trial at Larkhill and Corsham. We policed around 36,000 MOD-dependent people along the M4 corridor (between Bristol and Swindon) and in the garrisons surrounding Salisbury Plain, plus the training area. We covered around 90 establishments in the Wiltshire, Avon and Somerset police areas. Concurrently, a second trial took place in the Devonport area with Insp Gordon Peters as the APT Commander. The trials were a success and the scheme expanded nationally, with Insp John Wylie taking over as the Corsham APT Commander. I did an Honours Degree with the Open University with the Force funding 80 per cent of the cost.

In 1999, following very strong hints from Supt Bill Hammersley and ACC Barry Smith that I move on, I gained promotion to Chief Inspector and transferred to Coulport. There was a huge contrast between civilian policing at Larkhill and nuclear guarding at Coulport. Bill Mason was SPO and his 'baby' was the MIF – forerunner to today's business and local policing plans.

I moved to OCU HQ Uxbridge in 2001. Supt Sharon Taylor was the OCU Commander, followed by Ch Supt Tom Sloman, two excellent bosses who believed and trusted me. Sharon moved eventually to Devon and Cornwall Police as ACC while Tom later went to Kosovo 'nation building', prior to retirement.

I was technically the APT Coordinator, with APTs at Woolwich, Whitehall, Mill Hill, Feltham and Colchester. In practice, I was the Operations Chief Inspector covering London and East Anglia.

We dealt with anti-war demonstrations at Lakenheath and Northwood, CT searches of Whitehall alongside Met colleagues for Remembrance Day and State visits and major events such as the DES Exhibition at the Excel Centre in Docklands.

One irony about London was that US Navy London officers policed the North Audley Street USN HQ. Our people were on the street with MP5s whilst Met police DPG officers were behind a fence at the Embassy directly across the road from us!

In 2003, with the creation of Divisions, I got a Chief Inspector's job at Foxhill, close to my home in Dorset. As I write, I have four working days to retirement.

By the way, the young, 'fresh-faced' Sergeant from Coulport, who I mentioned earlier, became the first Foxhill Divisional Commander. He is Chief Superintendent Dave Allard. His only revenge, for certain humiliations on the Search Course at Clyde, involved money, pockets and rounds!

Mr Allard, Ian Reid and Bill Hammersley were joined by Ch Insp Dave Vaughan, Ch Insp Duggie Walker and myself, to create a Division, which is now due to end on 31 March 2012. This Division achieved notable things under Mr Allard, Joe Elder and then Ray Morrison:

■ Tail-end of Op Telic at RAF Fairford in 2003 with 100 MDP officers per shift deployed to ensure anti-war protesters did not interrupt the US Air Force's operation against Iraq.

■ 50 armed MDP officers deployed at the Royal International Air Tattoo, RAF Fairford, to counter any threat to the Show and American assets.

■ Involvement with the NGF, including Dimming Sun in 2003 where I deployed a number of officers on cordon duties in the dark. Alan Walker (NGF Coordinator) purchased some GPS devices; losing these was cheaper than losing officers!

■ The transition in 2004 from APTs to DSGs. We reconfigured our 96 APTs into three DSGs based at Larkhill, Devonport and Ashchurch. We set up a new station at Ashchurch with an overall reduction to 58 staff, achieved on a voluntary basis.

■ The Land Review implementation when we built on the 14 UBOs in the Division to an increased 23 plus two supervisors.

■ Innumerable Royal and VIP visits, PM Tony Blair and others, carrying out counter-terrorist search duties.

■ Post-7/7, we supplied MP5 armed officers for Whitehall. I received a call around 8pm in the evening, spoke briefly with the on-call Firearms Tactical Adviser and by 06.00 hrs the following morning had around 30 armed DSG officers on duty in Whitehall.

■ From March 2007 until May 2010, the Division supported the Metropolitan Police with Operation Bandsman, with the full support throughout by Mr McAuley and his staff at HQ.

■ From 2007 to the end of August 2011 Divisional officers (in particular PC Jarra Brown and PS Mark Venning), supported the Wiltshire Police Operation Entourage to escort repatriated military personnel from RAF Lyneham through Wootton Bassett. Close cooperation with Wiltshire Police led to an invitation to lay a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Day. Both Jarra and I had the honour."

Ex-Constable 1474 Smith

A letter arrived from Lincolnshire, from Ex-Constable 1474 Smith, as follows:

"I joined the Army Department Constabulary on 7 September 1971. I think I was one of the first recruits to be trained as MOD Police at Portsmouth Dockyard.

I joined RARDE at Fort Halstead where I was stationed for 13 years. I was lucky to become one of the first two dog handlers on this station.

This meant a lot of detached duties. I was at Greenham Common a lot with my Belgian Shepherd, Rocky. After Fort Halstead, I transferred to RAF Stenigot, Lincolnshire, and retired in 1992 with angina. I feel I've been fortunate and am lucky to be still here."



Sergt
Barrie
Brown

An active member of the OSU for eight years, I was also a Firearms Instructor and a Cascade Trainer.

I've received my letter from Defence Business Service informing me that my last day of service under Voluntary Early Release Scheme will be 30th March 2012. So it's farewell from me."

Mick Fryer

A letter came winging its way from Mr Mick Fryer who says he joined the Army Department Police in 1969 at Colchester Garrison. Here's his story:

"We policed the Army Estates, consisting of St Michael's Estate, Montgomery Estate and various other Married Quarters. There were about 4,000 residents. We dealt with road traffic accidents, domestic incidents and thefts of various types. We had 20 Police Constables, three Sergeants and an Inspector. We also had a large area of Ministry of Defence land, around 5,000 acres. All our orders came from the Control Room.

On 1st October 1971, we became the Ministry of Defence Police and I was on detached duties at The Royal Mint in London.

I've been to several Pass Out Parades at Wethersfield HQ and noticed the many improvements to equipment and radios. Makes me wish I was back in the Force.

I am now 79 years old and have been retired for 20 years but still look back with fond memories of my service with the Army Department Police and with the Ministry of Defence Police. The Ministry of Defence Police is now one of the best in the country and I am proud to have served in the Force for 24 years.

Best wishes to you all."



Mick Fryer

PC Dave Gibbs

PC Dave Gibbs of HMNB Devonport joined the Army Department Constabulary in September 1971. He has this to say of his short service with that Force, and even longer time with the MDP.

"I joined the Army Department Constabulary (ADC) in September 1971 at CDE Nancekuke (now RAF Portreath), Cornwall, starting pay £1,005 per year. Yes, per year! Then, your probationary period was only three months.

I carried out my Recruit's Course in Portsmouth and, half way through this, my probation was confirmed; if I'd failed, they could have sacked me. At Nancekuke, I went on many detached duties to other stations, including ROF Llantrisant, EMI Locking and AAC Netheravon.

On returning to Nancekuke, I kept my suitcase packed because, after a few weeks in March 1972, I attended RAVC Melton Mowbray for a Basic three-week Dog Course; working with security dogs. They weren't meant to bite, but often did.

I inherited a dog called Tramp. Nobody wanted him: floppy ears, built like a brick out-house and hated badgers. He especially didn't like Harold Wilson's Labrador, called Paddy; almost got him once at Culdrose, when the Prime Minister was on his way to the Scilly Isles. That would have made headlines in the nationals!

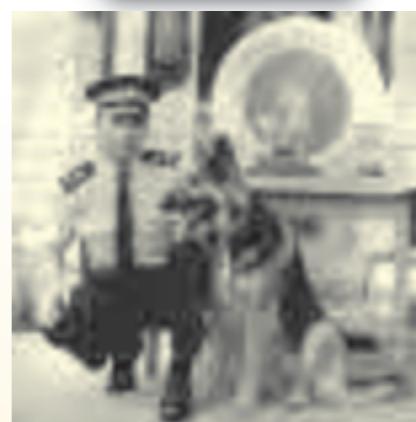
Whilst at Nancekuke, we had our yearly excursions:

- Devonport, for the yearly failure of the promotion exams
- Melton Mowbray, for the dog trials.

We travelled around the old Western Division visiting stations, some of which no longer exist, competing in the Western Area Quiz Competition. I believe Nancekuke won it more times than any other station, and were the last to win it before the competition ceased.

Other strange memories include the bank escort. Most of the civilian staff at Nancekuke were paid weekly, so a 'run' took place every week to a bank in Redruth. Tramp and I followed in another vehicle and, together, we stood on the pavement outside the bank while the pay staff went in to collect the money.

When Nancekuke closed in 1978 I moved to Plymouth. I carried out duties in the Naval Base for six months before I joined the dog section. Again I inherited a dog, this one was called Zet. Stupid name, but he wasn't afraid of anything.



In December 1981 I again attended Melton for a Police Dog Course; I was lucky, being one of the first. This course was 13 weeks and I brought back a German Shepherd called Ken.

Ken was a cracker; we had much success as a team, not just here but on detachments at Greenham Common, Molesworth, and Salisbury Plain on the summer solstice and Op Rogers.

If you were to add up these detachments it must come to around 90. We were successful at the National Dog Trials in 1983, winning Best Police Dog, Best Obedience and Best Criminal Work.

Neighbourhood Watch

During this time, I assisted the start of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme at the Married Quarters in St Budeaux. This was quite involved, working with Devon and Cornwall Police and various Council departments.

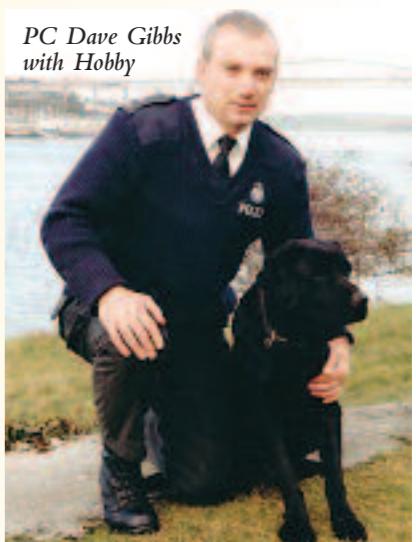
On Ken's passing in 1988, my next dog was Runo; boy, did I train him well! So good that, when 12 months later he was taken over by PC Max Wall, he never had to do anything. The reason for Max inheriting such a good dog, was because I then carried out a 13-weeks Arms, Explosive Search Dog course.

I then got the dog that most officers in the Force may remember: HOBBY. (Come 'ere you big *****). Here was a dog with character; would eat anything, including the pork chop off the Captain's plate. I'll explain. While the Captain and his officers were dining in the wardroom on board HMS Lancaster in Portsmouth Naval Base in May 1992, our search team entered this room, having been told it was empty. But it wasn't! It was now towards the end of the day and Hobby was feeling hungry. The Captain and other officers sat around the table. Hobby rushed in first, front pads on the table, pork chop off the plate and, within ten seconds, the chop had gone! I died of embarrassment, but the Captain and his fellow officers

couldn't stop laughing. After this, we carried out the rest of the search the following morning, before HM Queen Elizabeth commissioned the ship. I believe the last entry in the ship's log, before The Queen signed it, is 'Hobby's late lunch'.

Hobby liked to do things in his own time, but nothing ever went 'bang!' after a search. We even had a Crown court case where a man was convicted of stealing a weapon from the TA and, during the search of the offender's house, Hobby found ammunition for the weapon. These were a very busy few years; the IRA was very much in the forefront.

I carried out taskings all over the south-west and beyond. Some routine, some low-risk, some high-risk which involved suiting up; we frequently worked with Home Office colleagues assisting at various events. From Catterick to Culdrose, Horse Guards Parade in London, the opening of Abbey Wood and Remembrance Sundays. We even carried out searches in Dartmoor prison for smuggled weapons. I finished with the AES work on Hobby's passing away.



I then returned to general police dog duties and, in 1998, I returned from DAC with Rusty. What a biter! We managed to get through a TFSO course together. It appeared that some firearms teams were delighted because they knew he would do the job and take the person out. Rusty developed cancer in 2001; this was a very aggressive form and unfortunately he had to be put to sleep.

Shortly after this, I was asked if I'd go to Germany for a joint experiment between MDP and the Army who were buying dogs from across Europe. After a few seconds deliberation I said 'Yes', and off I went. I returned with a dog called Geordie. He was another star; loved to work, and it showed. Again, we carried

out a TFSD course, and he shone through, so tenacious was he with his criminal work. Good job he only weighed 28 kilos. I worked with Geordie until November 2008 when he became lame and X-rays revealed serious problems on both hips. Sadly, he went to the 'kennel in the sky.'

In January last year, I took over Max. Another good dog; he's now with another handler. I've now taken partial retirement and have the role of 'kennel manager' at Devonport; it's not as good as being operational with the dogs but it keeps me in touch.

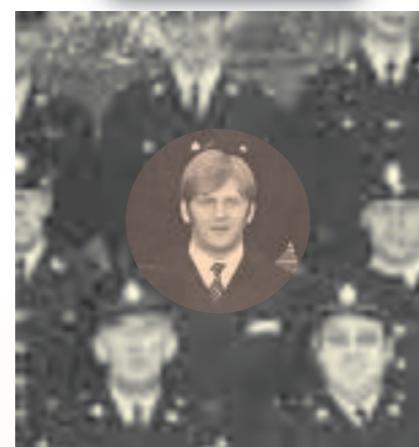
I'm so lucky to have seen and achieved so much since joining the dogs. I have worked with the best display team the Force has had, (the lads and lassies at Devonport will know who I mean) and with them helped to make many thousands of pounds for Marie Curie. This was with the help of Ch Supt Geoff Heal who gave us complete backing. We were doing, on average, three displays a week at local fetes, charities and scout jamborees. If people wished to make a contribution to our charity that was great. A team of us also competed in the Three Peaks Challenge.

I've also been fortunate to attend with a dog in exercises by other agencies. For instance, assisting the RAF and Army with escape and evasion exercises on both Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor, sometimes involving transport by Lynx and Chinook helicopters. I've assisted Customs and Border officials search for illegal immigrants at Millbay Docks, Plymouth, and various 'assistance to' Devon and Cornwall Police. This included 'missing persons', a few of which involved me, the dog, and India 99. It was a good buzz to be talking directly to an operational helicopter unit, receiving and giving information.

We had burglaries, runners from cars, public order incidents in the city centre, person searches of big stores. I was once confronted by a man on MOD property in Plymouth, who was holding a Doberman in each hand. He threatened to 'let them on me', and had taken his shotgun from his car shouting: "I'll blow you away!" The end result? A police caution!

In the main, I'd do it all again. I have worked with wonderful characters, and some strange ones, but most have been a pleasure.

One final thing, if anyone ever says they know all about dogs, they're telling 'porkies'. I have honestly found out that you are always learning. Never be too proud to accept advice."



Gerry Halfacree

We received an email from retiree Gerry Halfacree who can't believe it's already the 40th Anniversary of the MDP.

He writes: "I joined the Air Ministry Constabulary on 20th July 1950 and retired from the Ministry of Defence Police on 12th April 1986 at the age of 60. I was hoping to serve until 1991, but the 'powers that be' stopped allowing annual extensions from the age of 60 to 65 for all ranks.

I spent a while at home catching up on household jobs. I followed that by taking on a part-time, temporary, job to help out a local businessman. I finished up doing it for a further 15 years, finally retiring at the age of 79!

The surprising thing is the whole of my service in the AMC/AFDC/MDP was in the Chief Constable's office at Imperial House, Kingsway, London W2, Metropole Building in Northumberland Avenue, Sentinel House in Kingsway and, finally, Empress State Building, Earls Court. I served in total under six Chief Constables (F J May OBE, W H Mercer, F Seward, A McLean CBE, J R T Bailey CBE GM, Jack Aspinall QPM FBIM). Also under six Deputy Chief Constables (D F Grierson MBE, K I McCrea QPM, J Fleetwood, M V C Firth, J Aspinall QPM FBIM, N L Chappie QPM MSc LLB) and at least 13 Assistant Chief Constables.

With all the changes of Chief Constables, the standing joke was 'Make sure Gerry Halfacree's name is included in the Chief Constable's Office Inventory so that the new Chief can sign for him.'

When I read TalkThrough these days, I never cease to wonder how we survived before."

Mike Healey

Some of you will no doubt know Mike Healey, now retired, who writes:

"October 1st, 1971 – I was Night Duty Station Officer Sergeant at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and, at the stroke of 00.01 hours all officers were required to remove the hat badge of the Army Department Constabulary and insert the MDP hat badge.

Boots were issued, repaired at local Prisons, often with nails left sticking through! The collars to our shirts were detachable, with studs and we were also issued with a button stick to clean buttons with.

A new police station was built at the Main Gate circa 1970. During our first



Mike Healey

week of occupation every window was broken by stone-throwing vandals. Despite the efforts of 100 plus police officers, the offenders were never arrested.

I later wrote and published an article entitled 'Ghost of Woolwich Arsenal' which included a mention that the police station was built on the site of a former prison for those awaiting deportation to Australia.

Please note, there were no police vehicles at this time in the Royal Arsenal other than an open-top landrover, which was rather cold in winter."

Mike has written his autobiography 'Almost a Constable' which contains many more of his memories.

Mary Wills

We also received a letter from Mrs Mary Wills, the MDP typist at HM Naval Base Devonport. This is what she has to say about her time with MDP:

"In an old copy of Devonport Dockyard's former in-house newspaper, known as Devonport News, there is an article about 62-year old Mr F A Seward who became the first Chief Constable of the Ministry of Defence Police on 1 October 1971.

Here, at Devonport, the first man in charge was Supt R M Johnston who lived at the Police House just inside Devonport Dockyard's Fore Street Gate, South Yard. The property suffered extensive damage in World War 2, and was reconstructed to allow the then ACC to move back in to deal with the aftermath of the war.

I remember watching Supt Johnston walking down the road, pipe in mouth, and on entering the office, saying: 'Morning all. All quiet?' Whilst mentioning Supt Johnston, I've found a cutting from Devonport News October 1971, announcing his retirement after 26 year's service. He joined the Admiralty Constabulary as a Constable in 1945, having served as a Royal Marine Sergeant Major . . . Mr Johnston was the last Superintendent of the Admiralty Constabulary at Devonport

I started work at Devonport in 1966 as a Typist in the Admiral Superintendent's Central Copying Pool. I was frequently seconded to the Admiralty Constabulary's Police Office at South Yard, now a museum. The office was on the ground floor of the former Guard House; this had been home to the security forces since the start of the Dockyard in the late 1600s.

The office was just big enough for the Police Driver, Constable Gerry Shobbrook, Sgt Charlie Hexter, now deceased, sitting behind him and Mrs Quant the Administration Officer was next and, behind her, the typist.

I also worked in the CID office, housed in another building. Often, the cleaner and I were there alone when the CID men were working on cases abroad, such as in Malta, Hong Kong and Singapore. All officers' passports had to be kept in-date.

I left in 1972 to join my husband on board RFA Orangeleaf at sea for six months. On my return, I worked for Devonport Management Ltd, the private contractor running the Yard. I later transferred back to the MOD Police and have been here for twenty four years."

Jack Guyan

An email from Jack Guyan was accompanied with a set of cartoons drawn during his time at Molesworth.

He said: "The first set of cartoons refer to detached duty at RAF Molesworth, first opened in 1985, after the eviction of peace campers. The drawings with the round edges were drawn on cardboard dinner plates, as paper was in short supply. Some cartoons are signed 'Stevie@' and feature a small cat. The cartoonist was a Constable Steve Woods from CSB Faslane."

Now for Jack's earliest memories: "In 1964, I saw an advert for recruits for the Admiralty Constabulary. Not many people knew about this Force, but I was assured I'd be accepted as they only recruited ex-Service men. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, I sent in my application.



The Recruits Course was held in HMNB Portsmouth Dockyard. All the recruits wore civilian clothing as they'd only be issued with a uniform once they'd passed this course. The Class Instructors were Sergts Bell and Painter and I believe the Chief Instructor was Insp Albert Scales, later an ACC. When we were taught traffic control, a road layout was marked with cones in a vacant car park and the recruits took the part of vehicles whilst one directed us. The dockyard workers had a good laugh!

My first station was RNSD Perth and the SPO was Insp Louis Brown. There was one other recruit and we received a monthly correspondence course as our on-going training. Louis took a great interest in us, encouraging us to study and organising practical exercises. His door was always open. There were a few 'old soldiers' at The Depot and they taught me the basics of life in the Force such as always leave the Police Office clean and tidy with water in the kettle and the stove banked up; don't put your bags on the meal table; how to make a good cup of tea and how to do crosswords.

In 1966, I transferred to The Royal Naval Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire. The factory was the home of the Argyll Motor Works. The main building was a beautiful red sandstone edifice with pillars of imported Italian marble. The firm went bankrupt just before the War and the Navy took it over for the production of torpedoes.

The Police became unpopular as they monitored the start and finish times of the workforce. Ten minutes before starting time, we would turn the bell on with a slow ringing then, five minutes before starting time, we'd put the bell on to fast ring. The problem came when

"WHO KNOWS
DO ENLIST - THERE'S
A BIG HOLE ABOUT
HERE..... CHINE - CHINE..."



thousands of workers downed tools and made their way towards the main gate, waiting for us to turn on the finishing bell. You could see the SPO, Brian Blackburn, checking the time with a clock in the Clocking Office and the workers checking the time on their watches. One day there was a stand-off. The SPO decided that the workers had arrived at the gate too early and sent one of us to tell them to go back to their work places. Can you imagine, one young copper telling thousands of workers to return to their workplace?

Two years later, I was transferred, on promotion to Sergeant, to CSB Faslane which was still being built. I recall arriving on my first day to see a sea of mud. The officer on duty, Pat Ward, was splattered up to his armpits with mud, thrown up by passing vehicles. There was no electricity in the main gate building and we had to make do with torches. The section nicknames were 'The Wombles, with 'Uncle Bulgaria in Charge', 'The Bounty Hunters' and 'Dad's Army'. The SPO was Angus (Granny) Gillies and our Section Inspector was Billy Campbell, with my friends Jim McMurray and Ernie McKenzie as fellow Section Sergeants.

It was while I was employed at Faslane that the Admiralty Constabulary amalgamated with the Army and RAF police to become the MDP.

My next move was to AWE Aldermaston on promotion to Inspector. There were actually two Forces at Aldermaston. The majority were MDP but there were still some Atomic Energy Police officers too and they had slightly different Conditions of Service to the MDP. The SPO himself was ex-Atomic Energy. Although I'd qualified in the use of firearms whilst at Faslane, this was the first, and only, time I had to carry a firearm on duty.

Next posting was to HMNB Chatham, a very historic place with a great atmosphere. Its long connection with the Navy,

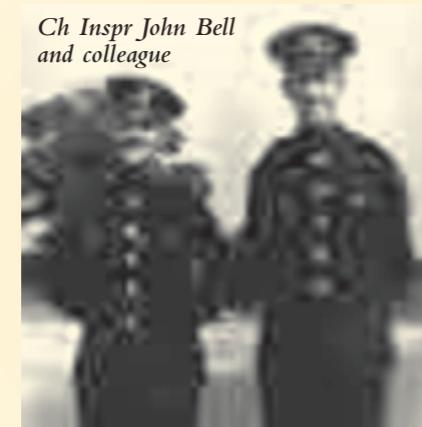
the historic ships, old and interesting buildings and its ghosts made it a special place. I was glad I had some friends there that I'd met previously in my service, as this always helps to fit in with Station routine.

RAF Bishopston, Renfrewshire, was my next Station, with Frank Davidson as the SPO and myself as Deputy SPO."

Ch Insp John J Bell

Former Chief Inspector John J Bell, now retired, contacted TalkThrough office just as the final touches were being put to this Anniversary edition.

Ch Insp John Bell and colleague



So, John, thank you for your contribution, including a photograph of yourself in the 'early days' of your policing career.

My early career

"I joined the Admiralty Civil Police on 18th April 1949. It was Easter Monday and a working day, as Public Holidays were treated as normal working days. However, extra leave was added to take account of this. The working week was six days, eight hours a day. The starting pay was about £4 5s. And, strange as it may seem there was no training. It was deemed sufficient for us to study a Royal Marine Police handbook. After six months, we were given a verbal

proficiency test by an ACC. On passing, we were then entitled to pay increments. At one time, the Admiralty Civil Police were not sworn in as police."

The Amalgamation in late 1949

As a result of the Special Constables Act 1923, the Royal Marine Police replaced the Metropolitan Police. Recruitment to the Royal Marine Police had been restricted to former Royal Marines but, of course, due to World War 2, the source of recruitment had dried up.

In late 1949, the amalgamation took place of the Royal Marine Police, Royal Marine Special Reserve Police and the Admiralty Civil Police.

The Chief Constable of the three Forces became Chief Constable Admiralty Constabulary. The main change for the Admiralty Civil Police was that, until the amalgamation, only a percentage of staff were established 'Civil Servants' and so entitled to a pension.

My role in the newly amalgamated Admiralty Constabulary

"At the time of the Amalgamation I was an Inspector and Senior Instructor at the Admiralty Constabulary Training Centre at Portsmouth. The Chief Constable appointed was Mr F. Seward, Chief Constable of the Admiralty Constabulary.

I was tasked to update the Admiralty Constabulary Lesson Notes to standardize the training at the three Training Centres. Recruits from all parts of the country were trained at either Debden or Portsmouth.

The lesson notes were taken to Debden by me and the late Archie McMillan, the Chief Instructor at Portsmouth. The Superintendent of the Air Force Training Centre was appointed Training Commandant. The Training Centre at Portsmouth continued to function and the Training Centres at Debden and Portsmouth eventually moved to Nutfield."

40th Anniversary Memories rewarded

At the Senior Police Officers' seminar earlier this year, Deputy Chief Constable Gerry McAuley announced that there would be a modest prize for the best photographs or anecdotes received for this 40th Anniversary edition of TalkThrough.

Having read every entry received, Mr McAuley, with grateful thanks to the Chief Constable's Fund has awarded £50 to Devonport kennel manager and

former dog handler PC Dave Gibbs and £25 each to Sgt Ray Tidswell, of HMNB Clyde and Jack Guyan, former Deputy SPO at RAF Bishopston.

Many thanks to all of you who took the trouble to send in your reminiscences and photographs and we hope our readers get as much pleasure from looking through them as we have enjoyed in the TalkThrough office.



Roll of Honour: Lest We Forget

The following is a list of Ministry of Defence Police officers and those from the former constituent Forces of Admiralty Civil Police, Air Ministry Constabulary, Royal Marine Police and War Department Constabulary who lost their lives in the line of duty, as recorded on the National Police Officers' Roll of Honour and Remembrance, which is maintained by the Police Roll of Honour Trust.

Those names marked with an asterisk (*) are awaiting verification.

Admiralty Civil Police

Police Constable Percy Henry Daniel Goulter

Died 30 September 1940, aged 43, killed in an enemy air raid at Sherbourne, Dorset, duty status unknown.

Alexander Murdoch*

Died 12 November 1942, aged 36, on Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Civilian War Dead Roll, died at Falkirk Sanatorium of 'Pthisis Pulmonatis' (of nine months duration) possibly resulting from injury sustained in an air raid.

Air Ministry Constabulary

Police Constable Percival John (Jack) Deegans

Died 13 March 1941, aged 41, killed by enemy action on duty during an air raid at Renfrew.

Sub Insp John James Bateman

Died 25 November 1944, aged 61, killed in an enemy air raid at Deptford, London, duty status unknown.

Army Department Constabulary

Police Sergeant 1228 H A Keen MBE*

Died 25 July 1964, aged 59, cause unknown (has CWGC gravestone).

Royal Marine Police

(Note: SRC = Special Reserve Constable)

SRC Frederick J. Woods

Died 28 December 1939, aged 47, killed in a fall attempting to rescue a boy who fell in a dry dock at Devonport.

Police Constable Frederick Eugene Aldridge

Died 17 April 1941, aged 35, killed in an enemy air raid at Lambeth, London, duty status unknown.

SRC Gerald Edward Holman Rice

Died 23 April 1941, aged 51, killed by enemy action during an air raid at H M Dockyard, Plymouth. (Awarded posthumous King's Commendation for Brave Conduct in Civil Defence).

Police Constable Alfred James Hayward

Died 24 April 1941, aged 41, killed by enemy action during an air raid at HM Dockyard, Plymouth. (Awarded posthumous King's Commendation for Brave Conduct in Civil Defence).

SRC Richard Essex Burder

Died 12 May 1941, aged 53, killed by enemy action during an air raid at the RAF Station, Pembroke.

SRC Patrick Edward Doran

Died 26 October 1942, killed in an enemy air raid at Bangor, Co. Down, duty status unknown.

Police Sergeant Herbert Allen*

Died 6 January 1947, aged 40, possibly resulting from injury sustained in an air raid at Plymouth (on CWGC Civilian War Dead Roll).

Police Constable Joseph Stanley Eccles*

Died 10 January 1947, aged 52, possibly resulting from injury sustained in an air raid at Plymouth (on CWGC Civilian War Dead Roll).



Roll of Honour: Lest We Forget

War Department Constabulary

Police Constable Stanley Gray*

Died 1 February 1953, aged 47, drowned at Havengore Island during the East Coast floods of 31st January/1st February 1953, duty status unknown.

Police Sergeant James Havard

Died 11 July 1940, aged 64, fatally injured during an enemy air raid on the Royal Ordnance Factory, Pembrey.

Police Constable William Stirrup

Died September 1940, aged 41, killed in a collision with a bus in the black-out, cycling to duty at Woolwich.

Police Constable Arthur Smith

Died 8 December 1940, aged 57, killed during an enemy air raid at the Royal Mint, Tower Hill, London.

The following three officers were killed in an enemy air raid while on duty at the Dalmuir Ordnance Factory, on 13 March, 1941:

Police Sergeant Peter Hunter Johnstone, aged 44.

Police Sergeant William Robert Lyons, aged 50.

Police Constable Thomas Marlin, aged 37.

The following two officers were killed during an enemy air raid at the Wireless Station, Woolwich, on 19 April, 1944:

Police Constable Lawrence Allan Gall, aged 56.

Police Constable Albert Edward Pounden, aged 55.

PWRC Arthur Charles Faithorn

Died May 1943, aged 56, found dead in railway sidings having been hit by a train on patrol at Woolwich.

The following four officers were killed in enemy air raids off duty or duty status unknown:

Police Constable William Forrester Murdoch

Died 12 January 1941, aged 50, at Woolwich, London.

Police Sergeant Richard O'Connell

Died 21 April 1941, aged 56, at Plymouth.

Chief Inspector Ernest James Hursey

Died 27 July 1942, aged 48, at Ross, Herefordshire.

Police Constable Robert William Burns

Died 16 June 1944, aged 36, at Chislehurst, Kent.

Police Constable George Pittman

Died 30 June 1944, aged 44, killed during an enemy air raid at Bush House, Aldwych, London.

Ministry of Defence Police

Police Constable David Fenton Rooke

Died 16 November 1973, aged 39, fatally injured on patrol at RAF Edzell when his van skidded on ice.

Police Constable Steven Derek Gant

Died 24 April 1990, aged 31, killed by the accidental discharge of a pistol during armed duty handover.

Chief Inspector William Wright

Died 21 January 1994, aged 45, killed in a road traffic accident on routine duty in North Yorkshire.

Police Constable Terence John Finch

Died 20 August 1997, aged 49, killed in a motorcycle crash on Special Escort Group duties at Burghfield.

Police Constable Michael John Brown

Died 27 July 1998, aged 34, killed when he fell from a boat during a training exercise in the Firth of Clyde.

Police Constable John Hepburn Wilkie

Died 8 August 2001, aged 53, died of heart failure at the end of a night shift at HM Naval Base, Clyde.

We also remember those other officers who have died in service over the years, although not on duty and the many retired officers who have passed away after giving the Force such loyal service, often over many years.

Remembrance Day honour for Force

For the first time since the MDP was formed 40 years ago, two of its officers were invited to form part of the Civilian Services Contingent (CSC) at the Cenotaph Remembrance ceremony in Whitehall on 13 November this year.

Deputy Chief Constable Gerry McAuley nominated Sgt Jane Underwood and PC Jarra Brown to represent the Force at this prestigious event.

Sgt Underwood (Divisional Operations – Community Safety) has recently returned from a six-month secondment in Afghanistan, where she worked as a police mentor and

training adviser, helping to develop the Afghan Police.

PC Brown (DCPO at RAF Lyneham) was the MDP lead on coordination and community engagement linked to the repatriation route through Royal Wootton Bassett.

The CSC – which also includes representatives of other UK civilian emergency services – forms up with the Military Honour Guard around the Cenotaph for the annual Remembrance ceremony and was under the command this year of Sir Hugh Orde, President of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Project 9699

By Chief Inspn Ross Stewart



Wethersfield from a bombing mission where it had been badly damaged by the enemy.

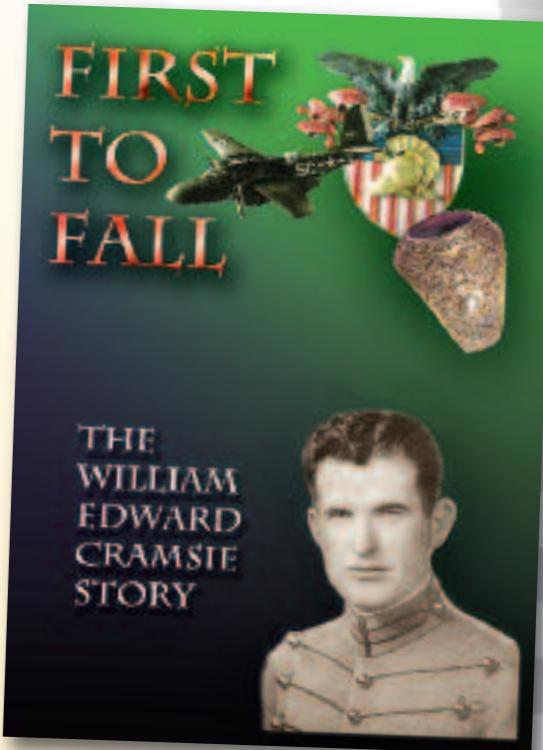
In March 2010, Wayne Sayles, a retired USAF Captain and author of a book called 'First to Fall', visited MDPGA HQ Wethersfield.

Although he had never served here himself during his military career, he had made this visit because Wethersfield was the last station of William Edward Cramsie, the subject of his book.

Bill Cramsie, at 24 years of age, was the first member from the West Point class of 1943 to be killed in action. He was one of the crew of a Havoc A20 which was lost in action off the coast of Essex on 10th April 1944. It was on its way back to

Wethersfield was then known as Station 170. It was the home of the 9th Army Air Force, 416th Bomb Group, and in particular for Bill of 671 Squadron.

The class of 43 had been one of distinction and Bill had graduated in the top 10 per cent out of 500



students. How Wayne came to write the story is very much a result of the curious circumstances surrounding the discovery of Bill's West Point ring.

After Wayne's visit in 2010, he left a couple of copies of his book as a 'thank you' in appreciation for allowing him to see the place so central to the events he had written about.

If you study the plaque on the wall of the Remembrance Garden by the chapel in Wethersfield, you will see the four squadrons and a graphic of the two types of plane flown by the 416th, the A26 Invader and the A20 Havoc. Every squadron is represented by its own patch, each of which can be seen on the plaque.

There are only seven such plaques to be found around the world in places connected to the 416th, personally placed by S/Sgt Frank Basford.

"I want you to find that plane!"

DCC Gerry McAuley, having read the book and knowing that I had an interest in both the history of the Base and remained in contact with the author, said: "Ross I want you to find that plane." "What plane?", I replied. To which his reply was: "Bill Cramsie's plane; let's see if we can bring it home."

At first this seemed an unrealistic ambition but further analysis of available information and known facts suggested that there was just a glimmer of a possibility.

With the enthusiastic support and endorsement of DCC McAuley 'Project 9699' was born. I should explain that '9699' was the tail number of the plane 43-9699 squadron identifier I-5C, in which Bill Cramsie Pilot, and crew S/Sgts Jack Steward and Charles Henshaw flew their last fateful mission. The project is now an off-duty activity for the team Ross Stewart, Sarah Boothby, John Mansfield and Larry Bates.

Missing in Action

There are 78,000 US Service personnel from WW2 listed as MIA (Missing in Action) and it has always been the policy of the US Government to look for their remains and, where possible, bring them home.

There are 5,127 names on the Wall of the Missing at the American Cemetery at Madingley near Cambridge and, alongside the names of Glen Miller and Joe Kennedy Junior, are those of the crew of 43-9699.



Should they ever be recovered then a rosette will be carved by their names to signify they are no longer missing.

In order to proceed further, it was necessary to get the support of the USAF. Following contact between Mr McAuley and the US 3rd Air Force (UK Chief International Relations Officer Mr Tom Gill) I was soon presenting the plan for '9699' to the Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) at the Pentagon. This was all done by Tele Conference and PowerPoint.

There were four stages to '9699' to gain official approval:



- Feasibility study. Was this worth carrying on? Is it achievable?
- Search of archives and records for new evidence to determine a possible search area
- Feasibility of a physical search
- Possibility of recovery and repatriation of any crew remains.

In a previous edition of **TalkThrough** you will have read that members of the JPAC team visited Wethersfield together with Mr Tom Gill. They expressed their appreciation for our interest and efforts to date. The USAF has now given their



Ch Insp Ross Stewart

support for the project to proceed to Stage 2 and the JPAC team hope to visit again later in the year to discuss this further. They have already provided us with incredible information from US Government archives.

What is the likelihood of finding '9699'?

Will we find 43-9699? ... Well, it is possible. A German Dornier shot down in 1941 has been found recently in Goodwin Sands and is in such a complete condition that it is scheduled to be recovered and displayed at a museum.

It is possible that '9699' could have survived in a similar condition under the shallow waters of the Thames Estuary, or embedded in the sands off the coast at Shoeburyness. Stage 2 research hopefully will narrow down the area so we can proceed to Stage 3. At that stage, I may then be able to report that we have made significant progress which will, hopefully, be verified during JPAC's next visit.

If aircraft 43-9699 is not found, or if recovery is not possible, then the Project intends to lay a wreath at the co-ordinates agreed as the most likely spot where the plane and crew were lost. If we do find '9699' there will certainly be further updates in future editions of **TalkThrough**.

At this year's reunion of the 416th Bomb Group, held from October 12 – 15 2011, the surviving colleagues of the crew of '9699' were informed about our project and the quest to find the missing aircraft and crew.

Project 9699

And the Band played on . . .

As part of the history of the MDP, mention should be made of the MDP Band. It was as early as the 1970s when a Pipe Band was first formed but, this eventually folded.

The MDP Pipe Band 1987 to 1995

Like the phoenix arising from the ashes, a second Pipe Band was formed in 1987 under the direction of Pipe Major John Masson. He secured a loan from the Chief Constable's Fund (the Chief at that time being Jack Aspinall) with which to purchase instruments and uniforms. The MDP Pipe Band was coming together once more.

Issue No. 6, July/August 1987, of **TalkThrough** reports on the formation of this second Pipe Band:

'The MDP Pipe Band was formed in January this year. It comprises eight pipers and six drummers. All its members are from the Clyde Group, making the problem of getting together for practice a little easier to surmount.'

'This is being carried out under the watchful eye of Constable John Masson . . . The band's first major public performance came on 27th June at the Faslane Fayre . . . Always on the look-out for fresh talent, the band has recently gained two further pipers – new recruits to the Force. The band has also improved its appearance with the acquisition of McKenzie tartan kilts.'



John Masson hopes that eventually the band will be able to provide the music for Passing Out parades at PTS Medmenham.'

This Pipe Band played at many events representing the MDP most notably at Navy Days, HMNB Rosyth, the 4th of July celebrations at Edzell, the closing ceremony at RAF Edzell and, not least, the World Pipe Band Championships.

The band consisted of:

Drum Corp (Snare, Tenor and Base)

- Snare Drummers: Rab Strachan, Jim Lynch, Ali Wilson, Davy Lindsey and Rob Hoblin
- Tenor Drummers: Hugh Galletley, Ivor Hoblin, Sandy Pyper and Jimmy Dignall
- Bass Drummer: John McKenzie

Pipe Corp

- Pipe Major: John Masson (1987-1991) Alistair Beveridge (1991-1995)
- Pipers: Robert Russell, Stuart Milligan, Andy Kirkwood, Jock McKay, Willie Wilson, Bruce Sim, Jimmy Smart, Drew Brown, Jimmy MacIntosh, Alex Fulton, Greg Henderson, Rab Wanless and Donnie McVicar

The MDP Military Band (1988 - August 2000)

Chief Supt Rob Hoblin believes the Band was the concept of Sgt John Tucker (now retired) and PC Trevor Lewis (also retired) and that a Force Order issued in 1990 resulted in the successful applicants arriving at Eastleigh Barracks at Southsea, Hampshire (Royal Marines). They all trained for a week alongside the Royal Marines from the Royal Yacht Band.

Support came from the then Commandant of the Training School, Ch Supt Barry Smith, together with the ACPO team and MDP's Chief Constable, John Reddington (1990-1994). The next Chief Constable, Walter Boreham (1994-2000), also gave his backing.

Instruments and Band Members

At its peak, there were a total of 45 players, including a drum corps of nine. They wore the police tunic and hat, but with the addition of silver ribbons, and high collars.

One record of who played what instrument is that listed on the sleeve of their cassette, entitled 'MDP Band Vol 1'.

This list includes members of the Pipe Band:

- Flute and Piccolo: Cliff Meatheringham
- Oboe: Robin Maidment
- Clarinets: Tony Hoff, Biff Beaver, Tom Cullen, Ian Burden, Joe Torrie
- Alto Saxophones: Tom Muir, E. Roy Foster
- Tenor Saxophone: Andy Teeney
- Baritone Saxophone: Joe Torrie
- French Horn: Stuart Thorn
- Cornets: Stan Jarvis, Kevin Jarvis, Derek Hooper, Deb Walden and Julie Evans
- Trombones: Paul Coker, John Hyde and Kenneth Hicks
- Euphoniums: Bill Rankin, John Pickersgill
- Basses: Noel Ring and Sean Stevens
- Percussion: John Tucker and Peter Howse
- Solo Piper: Alistair Beveridge
- Corps of Drums: Rob Hoblin, Allan Morgan, Steve Thomson, Roy Haines, John Shears, Paul Taylor and Iain Ward
- Drum Major: David Tee
- Band Master: Trevor Lewis

The two officers who initially suggested the Military Band's formation were Trevor Lewis, the main conductor who doubled up as the drum major leading from the front with his mace, and John Tucker on the bass drum. According to Supt Hoblin John did this, "To a very high professional standard."

And what events did the Military Band play at?

They played at the Passing Out Parades for both the Metropolitan Police Service at Hendon and the Home Office at Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Then there were the Navy Days at Portsmouth and Devonport, including the Beating the Retreat alongside the Royal Marines. They made an appearance at the Police Open Day at Wiltshire Constabulary HQ, a Concert at Croydon Festival Hall as well as the local fetes around Wethersfield.

A Report in **TalkThrough** Issue 76, August 1995, states:

'The Band has been involved in an extensive programme of concerts throughout the summer months, including a number of venues local to MDP HQ at Wethersfield. They have shown their versatility in performances at the Essex County Show, which included a marching display – through the showground as well as in the parade ring – and a static concert of jazz and popular music; Finchingfield where they 'Beat the Retreat' on the Village Green on a July evening; Gosfield Fete and at the annual MDP Dog Trials at Wethersfield.'

The Bands also grouped as one Band

Restrictions on cost of transporting the Scottish Band to England meant the two bands often played at separate venues. When they did play together, this must have sounded very exhilarating. Many were very proficient musicians because of their musical backgrounds, having served in The Royal Marines Band, or with the Army pipe band.



By Judith Slater

Photos: Supplied by past Band Members and other donations

They always came together for the MDP graduation ceremonies. With only three days to practise, a full dress rehearsal of students and both bands, it was a lot of hard work.

The Military Band would play a few rousing pieces, followed by the Pipe Band, before marching off. The MDP Probationer parade then followed. Both bands played The Highland Cathedral as a finale to the probationers, families and VIPs at what is always a memorable and special ceremony for all.

Police officers recall even now how proud they felt marching on, accompanied by the Force's own band. They played at almost every single Passing Out Parade from 1990 to 2000.

Then there were High profile events such as the Lord Mayor's Show in London. The combined bands took part in the official opening of MDP Headquarters at Wethersfield on 5th September 1995, with Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal as guest. 'The Royal party arrived by helicopter and were greeted by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex (Lord Braybrooke) and Mr Walter Boreham, Chief Constable. The event was attended by over three hundred invited dignitaries and guests.'

And the Band played on ...

Some of their repertoire

ACC Barry Smith wrote on the cassette cover – ‘Please enjoy the sounds of our music’:

- New Crusaders by D. McCrum (especially written for the MDP Band), Water Mill, Trombones to the Fore, Clarinet Candy, Royal Salute, Highland Cathedral, Officer of the Day, Instant Concert, Sons of the Brave, Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel, Drummer’s Flourish, Cornets A-Go-Go, Midnight Soliloquy and Luftwaffe March.

Personal recollections

Pipe Band

Ex-Supt Andy Kirkwood was Drill Instructor at PTS Medmenham. He organised the first Passing Out Parade with the MDP Band and the Pipe Band combined. He’d have to do a quick uniform change as he was both in the band and then conducted the graduation parade.

Andy especially recalls one occasion. “It was September 1994 and I was due to play with the Pipe Band on Friday at the Passing Out Parade. On the Wednesday, I received a ‘phone call from Colin Honey, Staff Officer to ACC Barry Smith, requesting I attend the OSU Hangar with my bagpipes. He told me I was to be the sole representative for the Pipe Band at the Passing Out Parade as the others had to return to Scotland on operations.

“Normally, the pipes come in gradually with Highland Cathedral; one piper building to a crescendo; all the pipes then coming in. It was hair-raising and very emotional. A solo player didn’t have quite the same effect!”

Ex-Supt Kirkwood also recalls: “As a joint band, after the ‘Dine Out’ dinner, Rob Hoblin and I would do a piping and drumming duet in the main bar, a hit with the students and staff alike. We did that quite often. It became traditional. We’d practise some fancy stuff’, particularly on the drums.

“I feel sad it ended – the biggest reason was cost. The band members just faded away; such a shame as most officers thought it was great. The families loved it too.”



Military Band

Lead drummer Ch Supt Rob Hoblin, a class trainer at PTS Medmenham, recalls: “As soon as I’d finished the showpiece drum salute, I beat a hasty retreat to do a quick ‘Houdini’ uniform change and then appear, calm and unruffled, with my class in the parades that followed.”

He also remembers: “Doing our drum solo in Croydon Concert Hall in front of a few thousand in the audience was daunting, with the spotlight only on my drum. It went well though.”

Rob also recalls forgetting his solo drumming lines at Wiltshire Constabulary Open Day and ‘blagging’ his way through the solo using some improvised drumming!

Insp Noel Ring, based at Devonport, joined as tuba player in the early 1990s. He says: “The Band rehearsed at various locations including PTS Medmenham –



where the tape cassette was recorded – West Drayton, Wethersfield and HMS Raleigh. We also played for the Chief’s Christmas dinners at PTS Medmenham and Wethersfield.”

Noel tells us of when his tuba strap broke and trailed along the ground as they marched. This was at an important Passing Out Parade at Hendon. The saxophonist behind him managed to skip his way along to avoid being tripped up! When finally the Band came to a standstill, waiting to be inspected by the Met Commissioner, Noel gave in and laid his heavy tuba on the ground, with a sigh of relief no doubt!

One member played a prank by delaying the arrival of another from rehearsals. He’d tied his bedroom door to the handle across the corridor, so blocking his exit. For revenge, this ‘victim’ hid the guilty bandsman’s gym shoes on Parade Day. Recalls Noel: “As we assembled on that big day, the shoes were spotted on top of one of the flag poles outside the HQ building!”

Our last contributor, Sgt Steven Thomson, was one of the drummers from its very early days until its last performance in 2000. He luckily managed to salvage his band uniform and regalia and purchase his original drum (an old Royal Marine instrument) when the assets were sold off. These are, perhaps, the last remnants of what was surely the ‘golden days’ of MDP’s musical showcase, the MDP Band.

Chief Constables 1971-2011



F. A. Seward 1971 - 1972



A. McLean 1973 – 1977



D.R.T. Bailey 1977 – 1985



J. Aspinall 1985 – 1990



J. Reddington 1990 – 1994



W.W.E. Boreham 1994 – 2000



D.L. Clarke 2000 – 2005



S. Love 2005 – Current Day

Two donated dogs make it into the MDP Dog Section

By Judith Slater Photographs by Paul Kemp
RSPCA photo supplied by PC Bob Shaw

Recruiting into the MDP is going well... but only if you've got four legs and a tail and the ability to sniff out drugs, good sensory glands and a willingness to learn. So it is for two recent intakes into the MDP Dog Section.

Meet Dale

This is a two-year-old Collie-cross who has truly worked his way up from being an unwanted dog to being valued and in demand and working for the MOD. In Spring this year, he was donated by the RSPCA to the MDP. PC Bob Shaw (alias 'Bob the Dog') was allocated this dog and for their first few weeks together they built up a strong relationship. Importantly, they quite literally got to know one another.

Commented PC Shaw:

"Twelve weeks prior to training, he knew nothing but chasing rabbits and he's now fully qualified with the purpose to work. Dale was a challenge; a lot of people said to me, 'Collie, no he'll never make it'. That made it so much more rewarding training him. Some Forces don't recognise them as Search Dogs; he has surpassed everyone's expectations. He passed out with flying colours."

"He's started working and on his first search found a 12-bore over-and-



under shotgun in a garage of a house we searched in Suffolk. There'll be other jobs coming up for drugs and firearms.

"Dale lives at home with me, in kennels. He's fine."

Training then started in earnest. PC Shaw started with the environmental and socialisation training, emphasising getting used to people. Dale also took to what he, no doubt, saw as play; retrieving and playing with a ball. Great fun. Shortly afterwards, he was introduced to scent recognition training for drug samples, one at a time. Sounds like

entertainment for a dog, but there is a serious side to this type of activity.

So, on hand with advice and training techniques were BTP (British Transport Police) Instructor PC Jeff Mounter as well as MDP's RAF Menwith Hill-based Instructor PC Gary Herron and PC 'Dinger' Bell, the MDP Drugs Dog Trainer.

Bob's diary entries during this time range from 'Whilst loose-running Dale, he exercised his free spirit and disappeared' to 'Dale cleared my 5'6" garden fence and returned,' and 'Amphetamine introduction went well.'

PC Bob Shaw and Dale then started on formal training, including passive scanning and pro-active searching at Devonport and MDPGA HQ Wethersfield under the watchful eye of PC Bell.

Commented PC Bell: "I could tell this dog would do well because he has a great temperament and is very intelligent. This, combined with high-drive and a willingness to work and retrieve a toy, made him

an ideal candidate for the MDP Drugs Dog Team."

Now, Let's turn our attention to Summer

At just over one year's of age, Summer, a golden Labrador, was donated by a member of the public to MDP in January 2011. She also undertook environmental and socialisation training, going first to



Dale with staff at the RSPCA.

When Bob took Dale back to the RSPCA where he came from 12 weeks later they couldn't believe how well he looked, how calm he was. The Manager and four kennel maids all remembered him and thought him a completely different dog. Now he is a fully licensed, ACPO accredited, Passive Proactive Drugs Dog and Firearms Detection Dog

MDPGA HQ Wethersfield and then on to Saltash and Devonport. She too enjoyed games of ball and tug, retrieving and playing. And, similar to Dale, then learned the different scents of various types of drugs.

Summer had the good fortune to be partnered with PC John Braund, her handler. Before starting training, PC Braund watched operational passive scanning dog teams working in the Metropolitan area, assisted by MDP's PC Graham Trailing, of AWE (Burghfield).

PC Braund and Summer completed a four-week Initial Course with Devon and Cornwall Police and then a further four weeks with PC Bell and PC Shaw.

PC John Braund is the first MDP officer to complete an Initial Drug Dog Course with a Home Office Force and these were done in a wide variety of locations, including a drugs warrant in Newton Abbott and MDP assistance to the Royal Navy Police with a ship search on HMS Portland.

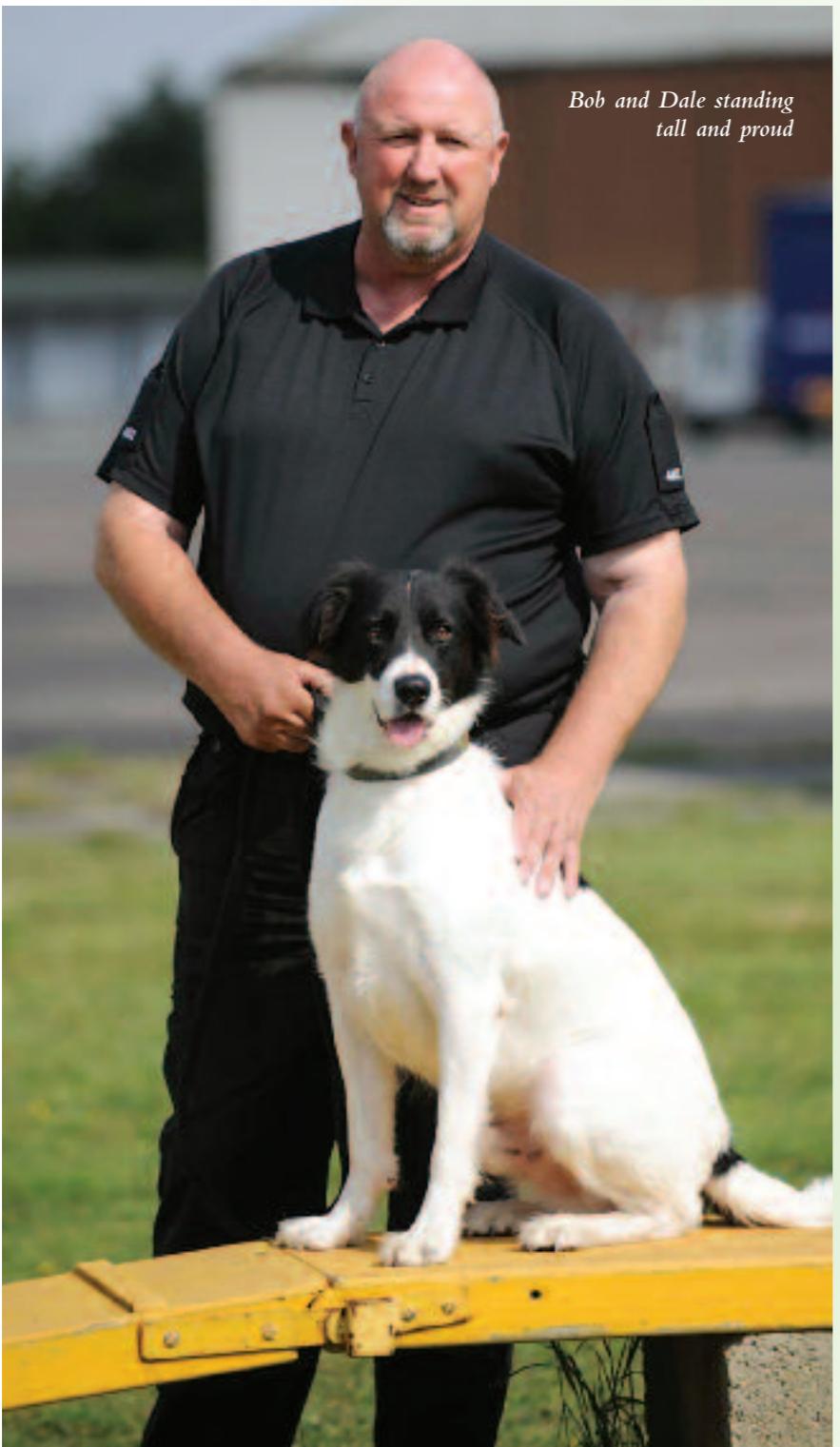
Of their time training together, this is what PC Braund has to say:

"This was a very steep learning curve with Devon and Cornwall Constabulary as Summer and I had only been together two weeks prior to the course.

"Having never handled a working dog before, my first weekly progress sheet stated: "John has a typical pet owner's approach to Summer, talking to her and having conversations."

CONTINUED . . .

Two Donated Dogs make it into the MDP Dog Section



Bob and Dale standing tall and proud

"Two weeks later we were consistently searching for and finding five and ten gram hides in live, non-sterile, venues.

"At Week Four, we did the end of course assessment over two days. It incorporated searches of buildings, outside areas and vehicles. Summer and I passed out 'Pro-active'."

Training together

The two dogs, Dale and Summer, and their respective handlers, then trained for passive scanning. These included HMNB Devonport, the City of Plymouth, RNAS Culdrose, HMS Raleigh, MDPGA HQ and Saffron Walden in Essex.

In August they were both ready for their assessments. These were carried out independently by Hugh Watson, the Devon and Cornwall Police Drugs Dog Instructor. They both qualified as Passive Proactive Drug Detection Dogs and gained their licences; and perhaps a little extra something for their dinner that night.

Distinction

Dale has the 'Distinction' of gaining a 'with Firearms Detection' accreditation. He is the only MDP dog to hold both the Drugs Detection qualification together with Firearms Detection. Up till now 'firearms detection' has only been performed by AES (Arms Explosive Search) qualified dogs.

Not bad for a dog who started life in the tough lane and now, through his ability and proper training, has found a totally new life with the MDP Search Dog Section. Truly, a tale of 'from rags to riches'.

An Appeal

PC Bell asks: "As the MDP Drugs Dog Trainer, I am always looking for new venues to train our dogs, particularly for scanning of personnel entering or exiting Bases. If you think you have a suitable location for training, or would wish to use a dog as part of a policing operation, please contact me."

PC 3937 Richard Bell

MDPGA HQ Dog Section

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CM7 4AZ

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Historic occasion at the Royal Mint

On 12th July 2011 a closely guarded secret that had been known to just a handful of people was out as MDP officers serving at the Royal Mint became involved in a truly historic occasion.

Meetings being held almost daily between the Senior Police Officer Sergt Adrian Harris and officers of various ranks from South Wales Police and Metropolitan Police SO1 only served to fuel the rumours that it must be someone very important. However, it was not until the actual day that people were told that history was about to be made, as the Mint had been selected as the venue for the first ever Regional Cabinet Meeting in Wales.

Shortly after 10.20am the first of the official cars arrived in convoy with police escorts and, in the case of the ministers who are afforded armed protection, a heavy presence of SO1 officers. Last-minute changes meant that the Prime Minister, David Cameron, and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg were not due to arrive until 10.50am which allowed some of the Cabinet to be given a short tour of the coin production facility.

Once the Cabinet Meeting was over, the ministers headed off in different directions to continue their respective ministerial duties.

Mr Cameron stayed behind for a short tour of the commemorative coin facility, where he successfully struck a coin, which he was given as a souvenir of his visit.

He was also allowed a preview of the 2012 Olympics Winners' Medals manufacturing process that had just

begun, finally departing to Cardiff Bay for a visit to the Welsh Assembly Government, leaving the Mint to resume making the nation's money.

In addition to being the sole manufacturer of all UK coinage (over 1.1 billion UK coins were issued in 2010/2011) the Mint makes coin and medal products for over 60 countries and is the principal supplier of military medals within the UK, including the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal issued to qualifying UK police officers, including those who serve MDP.

A great deal of the Mint's business also comes from the many commemorative products that it makes to recognise specific subjects such as major sporting events, Royal occasions such as the Royal Wedding in 2011 and even a coin to mark the seventieth birthday in 2010 of one of the famous Beatles, John Lennon.

With all these precious limited edition products around it follows that security is high on the list of priorities for the Mint and the MDP task is largely concerned with the process of searching individuals and vehicles that pass through the main gates daily.

Crime is relatively low on site and the MDP complement of a Sergeant SPO and 11 Constables must take full credit for this. High visibility foot patrols are also carried out with the main emphasis on enforcing the message that there is always a police officer on hand to deal with any issues including criminal activity.



By Judith Slater and Sergt Paul Chalmers

Let the celebrations commence on Armed Forces Day

■ Armed Forces Day was held over the whole weekend of the 25th and 26th June, with street parties and parades taking place throughout the UK.

One of the largest MOD events of the year took place in Edinburgh, the official host city. Festivities started on the Friday with tours of HMS Portland at Ocean Terminal at Leith and included a Red Arrows aerial display over the Firth of Forth, their first full performance in the city for 23 years.

On the Saturday, 2,500 military personnel, veterans and cadets marched down the Royal Mile from Edinburgh Castle, past the Scottish Parliament building to the main event at Holyrood Park. Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay met veterans and Service personnel at the short Ceremony of Thanks. The parade over, everyone enjoyed an afternoon of mixed entertainment with a grand finale of Beating the Retreat, followed by a breathtaking flypast of Typhoon and Tornado aircraft from RAF Leuchars and RAF Lossiemouth.

MDP specialist search teams

The vital job of searching in advance of this huge host city event, with Royalty, the Prime Minister, Scottish First Minister, Defence Secretary and other VIPs

attending as well as an expected crowd of 80,000, was a huge responsibility.

The Ministry of Defence Police received a request from Lothian and Borders Police to undertake all the specialist searches and checks of the area, vehicles and equipment, involved in the Edinburgh festivities. This also included policing the venue. This was completed by the MDP's Divisional Support Group Scotland, with support from elements of the Operational Support Unit North, and AES Dog Teams from Scotland.

The DSG has experience in searching this type of large scale event such as the Scottish Parliament and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. They have training and experience in searching at height and confined spaces, thus giving the team the title of Advanced Counter Terrorist Search Team one of the few in the country.

Sergt Paul Chalmers of the Divisional Support Group Scotland, PolSA commented: "We saw this as an opportunity, firstly to assist in raising public awareness of the contribution made to our country by those who serve and have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

"Secondly, it highlights in relation to our search capabilities, the expertise and professionalism of the Divisional Support Group in Scotland."

He also added, "We have a long standing good working relationship with Lothian and Borders Police, working with them on searches at events such as Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, military services at St Giles Cathedral, Royal and

VIP visits as well as several high profile murder inquiries."

The MDP was heavily involved in planning the event and officers were tasked several days ahead of it.

"We worked alongside the Lothian and Borders Police and the Royal Military Police to ensure that the event ran without incident for the organisers and the various charities involved," Sergt Chalmers added.

Chief Inspector Kevin Murray, Lothian and Borders Police stated:

"As Silver Commander for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo I work closely with the Divisional Support Group from the Ministry of Defence Police and never fail to be impressed by the team's commitment, experience and professional competence.

"In planning for Armed Forces Day, it was natural that MDP would have a critical role to play in the success of the policing operation and, as such, support was sanctioned from Coulport. The formal deployment involving MDP, Lothian and Borders Police and the Royal Military Police was the most significant collaboration between our organisations for a UK policing event and has set the benchmark for future activity. It is to the team's credit that the very visible, positive contribution they made to the day was readily acknowledged by participants, public and the partner agencies who had not previously been exposed to MDP."



And Captain W Stuart Marshall of PSAO/243 Pro Coy at Livingston said:

"The Defence Police Community as a whole showed it had the ability to stand side by side with our colleagues in the Scottish Police Service and portray and conduct ourselves in a professional and courteous manner. It was to our credit that there was not a single arrest during the events policed by the Defence Policing Community."

Medal and commendation for Afghan Police training role



Major General Patang, Head of the Afghan National Police Training General Command, visited the Foreign Office in July to present Afghan Presidential medals to two UK police officers.

MDP officer Brian Johnston and Tom Stabler were serving with the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan. The medals were awarded by President Karzai in recognition of their excellent work in developing police training at the Police Staff College in Kabul.

For T/Chief Supt Johnston, it was the second accolade to mark his contribution to the MOD's Main Effort.

Earlier he had received a commendation from Brigadier General Sebastiano Comitini (Nato Training Mission – Afghansitan). The citation read:

"(Awarded) for exceptionally meritorious service in support of the Combined Training Advisory Group – Police, Nato Training Mission – Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan. (Your) outstanding contribution to the professional development of the Afghan National Police Senior Leadership by working in collaboration and cooperation with NTM-A has made enduring contribution to the professionalisation of the Afghan National Police. Your outstanding dedication to duty also contributed to the partnership which now exists between the Nato Training Mission – Afghanistan and the European Union Police Mission – Afghanistan, reflecting great credit on you and the European Union Police Mission – Afghanistan."



The Afghan National Police will be essential in creating and maintaining long term peace and stability in Afghanistan. Whilst the police continue to face challenges, significant progress has been made and the process of transferring lead security responsibility to Afghan security forces is now formally under way.

Whilst at the Foreign Office, Major General Patang also met with Mark Sedwill, the UK's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. He thanked Mark for the UK's contribution to the development of the Afghan National Police, and reiterated the importance of long term support from the international community as Afghan security forces continue to take on more responsibility.

Major General Patang was visiting the UK to learn more about how the UK trains its police officers. As part of his trip he visited the International Academy, Bramshill and the Scottish Police College.

By Judith Slater
Photographs by
PC Martin
Whitfield
(OSU)



The Summer 2011 riots which plagued the streets of London and other major towns and cities for a week in August, saw police Forces from around the UK mobilised to deal with the public disorder, criminal damage, looting and violence which dominated the headlines and broadcast news over several days.

The MDP Response

Initially, Chief Constable Steve Love sent Operational Support Unit (OSU) vans to Essex Police Mobile Support Division (MSD) HQ to fill the void created by deployment of their officers in police vans into London. However, after a couple of nights, with increasing violence and national civil unrest, and more requests for assistance from the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, he deployed an MDP OSU Police Support Unit (PSU) to London.

The first of a series of deployments was on 12 August. It comprised 29 officers from MDP's OSU North and South, and included shield officers, drivers, specialist medics, and video evidence gatherers. They were all equipped with Public Order protective padding, helmets, public order shields and had available MOE (Methods of Entry) equipment.

They all came under the strategic command of MDP Gold Commander, Chief Supt George Branagh (MDP Central Operations), whose task it was to organise and control the provision of MDP logistics and resources in support of this operation. Ground level command of the PSU fell to Inspectors Huntley, Bruce and Thomas throughout the duration of the operation.

Said Insp Huntley: "We are first and foremost employed by the MOD and, as such, we have to consider carefully what resources we have to surge for national major incidents and would be ready as extra surge capacity should any MOD site need us rapidly. All these factors were taken into consideration. In circumstances of extreme public disorder, we may be

permitted to assist neighbouring forces if authorised through the appropriate channels, as in this case."

With shifts lasting up to 18 hours, the PSU was deployed continuously from the 12th to the 16th August in prominent areas of London, including Oxford Street, Soho and Tottenham. The main strategic intent was to conduct community engagement, whilst maintaining the peace and preventing further disorder. This was done through high visibility foot and vehicle patrols, stop and search tactics, public engagement and communication.

PC Patterson, a Public Order Tactical Adviser (POTAC) who took part in the operation said afterwards: "In some areas of London we found open hostility to the police. Yet, for instance when we went to Oxford Street and Marble Arch, the locals were more than happy to greet us. On several occasions we were approached individually by members of the community who thanked us for coming to London. We were there to give the community reassurance and restore order. We worked in Basic Mobilisation Units (BMU) alongside

other Forces from all over the UK such as Dyfed Powys and Durham police. It's my understanding that this was the first national mobilisation of police Forces under the current arrangements."

Insp Huntley was pleased with how his officers deployed:

"We demonstrated the highly flexible nature of the MDP to deploy to critical incidents and provide mutual aid to other emergency services partners. Our fully staffed, trained and accredited PSU provided a Public Order surge capacity and responded at extremely short notice. Not only that, but it again demonstrates that we are fully interoperable, and therefore extremely effective, when working alongside any other police Force in the UK in a public role."

He continued: "The MDP officers who were sent on this difficult and testing operation are professional, tolerant and community focused. We, and the wider MOD, should be justifiably proud of the capabilities and achievements of their MDP Operational Support Unit."

Notting Hill Carnival

On Saturday 27th August the OSU again deployed into London in support of the Metropolitan Police, who had a large number of officers policing the Notting Hill Carnival. A full PSU, again with officers from both OSU South and North, took to the streets of London for a series of three 18-hour shifts. The purpose of the PSU was to provide high visibility public order community reassurance.



They carried out focused intelligence-led patrols in key areas and went to addresses known to be frequented by individuals suspected of public disorder and property offences in the earlier disturbances.

Insp Thomas of OSU South, who commanded the PSU over these three shifts, said: 'Although it's not unusual for OSU officers to police within London, we usually operate within the Government Security Zone around Whitehall. So, it was interesting to get out and police the boroughs.'

"Our officers drew a lot of attention from the public who saw the Force crest emblazoned on the side of the PSU carriers and wanted to know why the military were deployed. Once we'd explained the difference between the MOD and Military Police this led to further conversations with the community. Again, we were encouraged by the support we received from the vast majority of people we came into contact with."

Assistant Chief Constable Operational Support, Robert Chidley, made the comment: "Although on this occasion it was MDP assisting Home Department Forces, as part of a national police deployment operation, it could equally be the reverse on other occasions whereby

the Home Department Forces are engaged to meet an MOD need at one of its locations. What all this highlights is the continuing need for, and many benefits of, such interoperability and joint training."

Chief Constable Steve Love

Chief Constable Steve Love received a letter of thanks from the Assistant Commissioner of Central Operations, Metropolitan Police for all the assistance given by MDP during the riots (see 'Well done, and thank you' on page 35).

In turn, the Chief wrote of his gratitude in his August 'Core Brief' to all staff for a job well done:

"I am grateful to everyone who has provided support to our Home Department colleagues in the aftermath of the rioting. We still have support on offer through the Police National Information and Coordination Centre (PNICC) but in the first week we provided cover for Essex and North Yorkshire to backfill for their deployments to London and the West Midlands, specialist equipment and command vehicles to the Met, and a full OSU PSU working extended duties deployed from the Met's command centre at Hendon to cover North/Central London."

Successful golf event tinged with sadness



By Willie Burns, Secretary,
MDP (N) Golf Society

to all the new faces, including the Chief. Mr Bligh said that the last nine years had been a pleasure and an honour. He said:

"I believe the Society represents all that is good in sport and life and it is in excellent shape in facing the challenges to come in the future; long may it last with the spirit that prevails."

He wished ACC Dave Allard all the best for the future in his new role as President of the Society. "I'm sure he will continue and support this worthy annual event." He closed by saying that he looks forward to next year as he will take part in the event as a retired officer, adding: "I shall give John Boyd a run for his money!"

The MDP (National) Golf Society's 2011 Championship was held at Malton & Norton Golf Club, North Yorkshire on 25 August, when 34 golfers competed in this annual event.

This year was an exceptional but poignant occasion for the Society for two reasons. Our President, ACC John Bligh decided to take the long walk and leave the Force on retirement and at the same time resigned as President to the MDP (N) Golf Society, and for the first time in 22 years of the Society's existence we had the pleasure and company of the current Chief Constable, Steve Love.

The weather for this year's event put a dampener on the day but not the spirit of the competitors. The competition was cut from 36 to 27 holes after a late start but, typically for British weather, the sun came out in the afternoon.

Out of the 34 starters, 16 were from north of the border and as usual they did not disappoint. The dark horse from Scotland was John McEwan who, on his second time playing in this competition, adapted to the weather and played out of his skin over both rounds to finish first in the Handicap competition. Well done.

The majority of players who took part in the event are regulars. However, it is always good to see new faces. One in particular who must be mentioned is Supt Mick Bone, RNAD Coulport, whose golf on the day was to say the least very colourful, but it did win him three trophies.

We hope that he puts the 'slice eliminator' prize to good use for next year. The day in the end went to Ken Whitfield, RNAD Coulport, who plays off a very modest handicap of '1', he lifted the competition's highest prize of best scratch golfer for 2011.

The President of the Society (ACC John Bligh) thanked everyone for attending, and gave a special welcome



Mr Bligh was joined by the Chairman (Davie Hamilton) and Treasurer (Alan Paterson) and by guests, Mr Love and Mr Nick Redman, Secretary of Malton and Norton Golf Club (pictured above), to help present the prizes to the 24 prizewinners of the day.

The Chairman announced that the next outing will be taking place on Thursday 30 August 2012 in Hampshire area, the venue to be confirmed in Force Orders nearer the date.

MDP Golf Society's 2011 Championship Prize Winners

PRIZE	NAME	STATION
3rd Class - 3rd	R. JESSIMAN	DCPO HARROGATE
3rd Class - 2nd	W. BURNS	HQ DVR TRG
3rd Class - 1st	S. BURNSIDE	RNAD COULPORT
2nd Class - 3rd	K. CLARKE	FORT HALSTEAD
2nd Class - 2nd	A. ROSS	RNAD COULPORT
2nd Class - 1st	J. FRANCIS	WINTERBOURNE GUNNER
1st Class - 3rd	J. LOCKYER	OAKHANGER
1st Class - 2nd	S. MILLIGAN	MENWITH HILL
1st Class - 1st	A. PRIOR	RNAD COULPORT
Endeavour Cup	M. BONE	RNAD COULPORT
Nearest Pin AM	J. PURDON	C.M.U.
Nearest Pin PM	M. BONE	RNAD COULPORT
Longest Drive	K. WHITFIELD	RNAD COULPORT
Bogey Competition	K. WHITFIELD	RNAD COULPORT
Birdie Competition	J. McEWAN	RNAD COULPORT
Stableford Winner	J. McEWAN	RNAD COULPORT
Colonial Shield	M. McLAREN	AWE BURGHFIELD
Par 3's Winner	K. WHITFIELD	RNAD COULPORT
Handicap 3rd	F. GRANGER	RNAD COULPORT
Handicap 2nd	M. BONE	RNAD COULPORT
Handicap 1st	J. McEWAN	RNAD COULPORT
Scratch 3rd	S. TROUGHTON	GOSPORT
Scratch 2nd	M. McLAREN	RNAD COULPORT
Scratch 1st	K. WHITFIELD	RNAD COULPORT

Runner PC wins two silver medals

PC Paul Davies from Hereford Garrison attended the 2011 Civil Service Sports Day at Bath in July finishing second in both the 100 metres and the 200 metres, receiving two silver medals.

He later began training for the UK Championships with the goal of attaining 1 minute 52 seconds for the 800 metres in order to qualify.

He trains in Cardiff with members of the GB Athletic Team and is coached by Darrell Maynard, who recently received the Coach of the Year award.

Paul said: "It's hard fitting training around shift work but I'm determined to qualify for the UK Championships either this year or next."



MDP in the Media

Recent extracts from newspaper and magazine articles which have featured MDP

From: The Clitheroe Advertiser and Times

Man accused of £200,000 Ministry of Defence theft

A former member of the Armed Forces has been charged with fraud and the theft of more than £200,000 by Ministry of Defence Police.

The 51-year-old was arrested by MOD Police detectives on suspicion of fraud by failing to disclose information. He was interviewed at a police station in Blackburn and released on police bail pending further inquiries.

He has since reported back and been charged with 14 counts of theft and eight counts of fraud and bailed to appear before Swindon Magistrates Court at a later date.

The charges relate to a period from February 2002 to March 2009 to the total value of £218,177.

From: Scottish TV News

'Old fashioned policing' sparks 80 per cent fall in youth crime on housing estate

A sharp drop in anti-social behaviour on a large housing estate has been put down to 'old fashioned policing' by the Force that introduced it.

Vandalism, petty crime and youth disorder have fallen by 80 per cent on the Churchill estate in Helensburgh, which is home to about 1000 military and civilian families.

Chief Insp Jim Gillen, of the Ministry of Defence Police, said the fall was the outcome of a community programme set up three years ago in partnership with Strathclyde Police.

The scheme provides a youth club and monthly disco for teenagers, as well as activities organised through a local golf club – but the youngsters lose the perks if they break the law.

Mr Gillen said the programme 'beat all our expectations' and had cut the cost of vandalism in the areas by £58,000 a year.

Previous problems with anti-social behaviour in the area, including youths drinking in the streets, vandalism and petty crime, were associated with a lack of connection between the Services' families and the local community.

Mr Gillen said: "It came back to a lack of ownership in the estate because of the type of families we're dealing with, Service families who tend to be in one place for two or three years at a time and then move on."

"The neighbouring estates also viewed it as an MOD estate and the facilities in there became a target for juvenile disorder from other places."

"One of the first things we set about doing was engendering that sense of ownership among the community, not just the MOD community but the surrounding community too."

"It's almost like a carrot and stick approach. A very important part of it was giving the young people something else to do. But they also knew that if they're detected doing something, we will come after them."

From: Lennox Herald

Alex scales the heights to help cancer charity

A Bonhill man is facing a mountainous challenge to pay back the charity that helped him beat cancer.

Ministry of Defence Police Sergeant Alex Robertson will tackle Africa's highest mountain – Kilimanjaro – in January to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Alex said: "Having suffered from cancer myself I know first-hand the good work that Macmillan do and wanted to do something to say thank you."

"I was diagnosed with colon cancer and was away from work well over six months undergoing treatment."

"During that time Macmillan was there to give me support, providing help with things like travel to and from my treatments."

Thankfully Alex's treatment was successful and he was given the all-clear, returning to his work as uniform Sergeant at Faslane Naval Base.

His colleagues and friends have been quick to get behind his charity effort, already donating hundreds of pounds towards his £5,000 target.

Meanwhile Alex has been hitting the local hills and mountains in preparation for the big climb.

Anyone wishing to help Alex's charity effort should visit his Just Giving website at www.justgiving.com/alex_robertson1600

From: The Daily Telegraph

Police surround town with 'ring of steel' in move to tackle metal thefts

Police placed a 'ring of steel' around a small market town during a crackdown on metal thefts that have blighted the area.

Officers set up checkpoints on all roads out of Horncastle, Lincolnshire, as they attempted to catch metal thieves who have been targeting local churches, village halls, nurseries, schools and isolated homes and businesses.

The problem has wrought havoc across many other parts of Britain as the number of crimes committed in the countryside has more than doubled over the past year.

Under the initiative in Horncastle, suspicious drivers were stopped and vehicles searched. Six men were arrested as part of the multi-agency investigation, which included Lincolnshire Police officers and officials from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, British Transport Police, Ministry of Defence Police and the Environment Agency.

Officers created 'the ring of steel' and stopped vehicles believed to be transporting scrap metal, with the objective of detecting and disrupting criminal offences associated with the trade.

From: Wiltshire Times

SOLDIER FACES PRISON FOR STEALING MEDALS

A soldier who burgled comrades' rooms to steal their medals, which he sold for thousands on eBay is facing a jail term.

Sergeant Gordon Hill sneaked into officers' bedrooms in the Sergeants' Mess at Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster, to get his hands on the prized decorations.

Among the campaign awards the 37-year-old took was a rare Sierra Leone medal, as well as others marking conflicts in the Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan and Northern Ireland.

Hill then went online to sell the medals, which one victim said 'represented personal blood spilled overseas' to the highest bidder.

He was caught after a buyer became suspicious, when she realised she had just bought decorations which belonged to a serving soldier.

Hill, who was paying back loans to stop himself being declared bankrupt, claimed (during an MOD Police investigation) that the eight victims had all asked him to sell the medals for them.

He insisted the men, all senior non-commissioned officers including a Company Sergeant Major, had all approached him and he had given them the money after they were sold.

Hill pleaded not guilty to seven counts of burglary, two of theft and 11 of fraud, when he appeared at Swindon Crown Court, but was convicted on all matters.

Judge Douglas Field released him on conditional bail to allow the Probation Service to compile a pre-sentence report and warned him custody was inevitable.

Well done, and thank you...

From: Lynne Owens, Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police

I would like to take the opportunity to express my immense gratitude to you and the officers from your Force who continue to provide support to the public order policing operation in London.

We are now (15 August) ten days into what has been a period of unprecedented demand, not only for the Met but for police Forces across the country. The tremendous support that we have received has been crucial in helping us to restore and maintain order and I am extremely grateful for your assistance.

I know that this view is shared by my colleagues, not least those on the front line who have witnessed first-hand the professionalism and upbeat attitude of those officers who have travelled to London to support us.

From: Richard Roffe, Chairman Wittering Parish Council

At the last meeting of the Parish Council the following tribute to PC Colin Everett was recorded in the Minutes:

'PC Everett has acted as Unit Beat Officer for the past nine years, funded by the RAF Station Authorities and has made a major contribution to the joint policing initiative in creating a safe and secure environment within Wittering village, RAF Wittering and its associated Service Families' Accommodation Estate.'

'The Council were sorry to learn that he will be retiring shortly and the Chairman put on record the appreciation and thanks of the Council and Parish for his exemplary service to the Community.'

This joint initiative was implemented in 2003 with the main objective of reducing the level of crime and anti-social behaviour then current in the village.

Many of those problems have been successfully tackled through the years since and most are now minimal or non-existent in Wittering, thanks significantly to the presence of PC Everett in the village, who has also regularly attended PC meetings and presented the official comprehensive statistical report bearing out the above.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The 61st Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



The 61st Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) created a new challenge for specialist Counter Terrorist Search (CTS) officers from the Divisional Support Group (Scotland).

The amphitheatre for the REMT is the castle esplanade, which this year had been impressively refurbished with state of the art seating, offering an

audience capacity of more than 217,000 over the three-week period.

Planning for the new stands was carried out during a number of visits to the venue to build up knowledge of the stands' technical data/schematics. This allowed DSG to carry out an extensive 'search and seal' operation, to aid CTS resources to maintain the integrity of the venue over the period of the Tattoo.

Time constraints on the search included the fact that the castle hosts a vast number of visitors daily, presenting its own set of challenges. Members of the public seeing specialist Police units carry out systematic searches ask questions. What they want to know shows just how aware they are of the steps taken to ensure their safety and provides good PR for our job.

Other questions, including, "Which castle is that?" always raise a smile.

HMNB Clyde names new street after Jim Gillen

Hopefully Chief Insp Jim Gillen is not too superstitious. As he acknowledges, it's normally only after a death that a person may be honoured by having a street named after them.

Chief Insp Gillen, as part of his police duties at Clyde, serves on the Naval Base's Traffic Management Committee and is a well-known face at the military site, going back to 1992 when he began as a Police Sergeant at Clyde.

Since then Jim has moved around quite a bit during his MOD Police career, but always returning to the Naval Base where he is currently posted for the third time.

During this latest period at the Base he has built up a reputation for getting things done safely, securely and to Clyde's high standards. That's why when his fellow traffic committee members proposed creating 'Gillen Road', it was changed to reflect how they liked things done – the 'Gillen Way'!

"I am very honoured and it was a great privilege to officially open the road," he said.

Originally from Greenock, Chief Inspector Gillen became a MOD police officer in 1987, working on



LA(Phot) Sally Stimson, Crown Copyright/MOD 2011

military escort duties before being seconded to the CID at Rosyth.

A qualified police trainer, he has spent time seconded to Greater Manchester Police and the Prince's Trust volunteers based at Anniesland College, where he became project manager for teams working in Anniesland, Possil and Springburn.

Over the years he has also been involved in a revamp of military convoy escorts and the establishment of community policing on the MOD estate.

He has also been seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as Head of International Policing – establishing and supporting policing missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

Were you lucky?

See who won the MDP Central Sports and Welfare Association's Lottery draws in April, May and June 2011.

APRIL 2011

1st	£3,500	DC M D Ryan, Wethersfield (MIU)
2nd	£2,000	PC R W Childs, Hereford (Stirling Lines)
3rd	£1,000	DC E Duffy, Wethersfield (FIB)
4th	£200	PC I P Ardis, AWE Aldermaston
5th	£200	PC F C Parson, AWE Burghfield
6th	£200	PC J Graham, HMNB Devonport
7th	£200	PS A E Robertson, MDP Whitehall
8th	£200	PC E F McGinley, MDP St Fergus

5th £200 PS A E Hall, HMNB Portsmouth

6th £200 PC K M Birse, RAF Menwith Hill

7th £200 PS J K Aitken, HMNB Clyde

8th £200 PC M J Waite, DSDA Bicester

JUNE 2011

1st	£3,500	PS G E Turnbull, Wethersfield (ATC)
2nd	£2,000	PC B A Forster, AWE Aldermaston
3rd	£1,000	PS P B Goward, Wethersfield (EPT)
4th	£200	PC D M Paton, HMNB Clyde
5th	£200	PC D A Tindal, DSG Ashchurch
6th	£200	PC D Booth, MDP Easington
7th	£200	PC D Critcheson, DSDA Donnington
8th	£200	PC I Burdon, MDP Wilton

5th £200 PC D A Tindal, DSG Ashchurch

6th £200 PC D Booth, MDP Easington

7th £200 PC D Critcheson, DSDA Donnington

8th £200 PC I Burdon, MDP Wilton

MAY 2011

1st	£3,500	PC N M Ross, DSDA Longtown
2nd	£2,000	PC J L Newman, RNAD Coulport
3rd	£1,000	PS A S Greaves, Wethersfield (IPSO)
4th	£200	PC J Thompson, HMS Caledonia

Local artist Paul Branson FRSA visited RNAS Yeovilton over 18 months, as "Artist in Residence", painting and drawing pictures of life on the Air Station.

He decided to concentrate on everyday activity, including the work of the MDP Dog Section.

After several studies of the dog compound, police clothing and personnel and their dogs, Mr Branson produced an oil painting depicting the compound.

This painting is currently on show at an exhibition in the Yeovilton Fleet Air Arm Museum, together with more than 60 other oils, watercolours and pencil drawings by the artist. It continues until 22 January 2012.

Paul Branson studied at Goldsmith's College of Art and has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

He has also been appointed Artist in Residence to the 2012 Olympic Games.



A Special Day for 'Royal' Wootton Bassett



The Ministry of Defence Police have a close affinity to the town of Wootton Bassett, having maintained a presence at nearby RAF Lyneham and taken part, through its community policing, in all the repatriation ceremonies.

This is since the first Service personnel killed in Iraq in 2007, and subsequently Afghanistan, were brought back through RAF Lyneham.

There have been 167 repatriation ceremonies at Wootton Bassett, and at each one PC Jarra Brown, and other MDP officers, took part.

Royal Wootton Bassett

It is in recognition of the dedication of the town's inhabitants, who have lined the streets in respectful silence on the return of every fallen soldier, that Wootton Bassett has now been granted Letters Patent by HM The Queen. This renames the town as 'Royal' Wootton Bassett the third town in British history to receive such an accolade, the first in over 100 years.

Receiving The Princess Royal were the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, the town's Mayor, the Prime Minister and the new Secretary of State for Defence, Philip Hammond. Presenting the town with the Letters Patent, the Princess said: "This community has come together in a most extraordinary way. I am privileged to be allowed to add my thanks to those of Her Majesty and the whole country for the example you set in respecting with dignity the losses that this country's operational responsibilities have forced upon us."

MDP's Representatives at the Ceremony

Representing the MDP were DCC Gerry McAuley, Ch Supt Ray Morrison, Commander of Western Division, PC Jarra

Brown, who played an integral local coordination role throughout, and all MDP officers who have ever deployed in support of repatriation events.

In 2008, PC Brown received a special commendation from the then Home Secretary at the annual Jane's Police Review Community Police Officer of the Year Awards. He was also presented with the Chief Constable's Commendation by 2nd PUS. This citation read: 'For his sensitive, professional and respectful handling of the policing arrangements surrounding the repatriation of fallen Service personnel to the UK via RAF Lyneham.'

Western Division Commander

Said Ch Supt Ray Morrison: "I was especially pleased to be invited to the 'Royal' Wootton Bassett special day on Sunday 16th October 2011. This commemorative event concludes the MDP operations in support of the repatriation of fallen Service personnel through RAF Lyneham."

RAF Lyneham and Royal Wootton Bassett will for ever be linked as a result of the repatriations and the response from the townspeople. Indeed I believe it captured the heart of the nation, sent a clear message of support and respect to our Armed Forces and acknowledged the risks they take, which can sadly result in the ultimate sacrifice.

As Western Divisional Commander, I am immensely proud of the way my officers responded to these extremely sensitive and important occasions. I wish to place on record my personal thanks to them all for their invaluable contribution and professionalism."