

L/Cpl. Albert Shaw RMP.

Resulting from a recent enquiry from Gordon Martin RMP, a same squad member (491) and close friend of Albert, I sought the help of another close colleague of his, Roy Hutson of squad 546 regarding Albert's death in 1956 whilst on duty in Cyprus.

Roy had known Albert since the 1940's, when Albert lived in Bromhall Road, Dagenham, Essex. Roy's family lived nearby in Porters Avenue. Both lads went to the Dorothy Barley Infants and Junior School together. Roy still has memories that they were both keen on the same girl at school!

They were good pals, doing all the things that kids do like swapping comics etc.,

In 1948, they both went to different secondary modern schools-Roy to Bifron's and Albert to Park, but always kept in touch with each other.

Albert met and became engaged to a girl that lived opposite his house in 1955, shortly before joining the RMP as a direct entrant for three years, and he commenced training with Sgt. Ron Booth in squad 491 in February 1955.

After passing out in July 1955, Albert was home on embarkation leave, while Roy was preparing himself to do his compulsory national service. Albert convinced him that to volunteer to do his service with the RMP was the way to go!

Roy received his call-up papers on 8th December 1955, and after basic training with the RASC at Blenheim Barracks, Aldershot, volunteered to do his NS with the RMP and commenced training with Sgt. John Hall and squad 546, passing out in May 1956.

Meanwhile, Albert had been posted to Egypt, where he had obtained his marksman's badge before being transferred to 5 Section, 10th Armoured Division Pro.Coy. in Limassol, Cyprus.

On Sunday 22nd April 1956, Albert was riding as a passenger in the front seat of a Land Rover being driven by L/Cpl. Ray Pain RMP and accompanied by an ACC cook whilst escorting a rations truck back to Limassol. The vehicles came under fire from EOKA terrorists at Curium.

Albert was wounded with head injuries, and even though Ray Pain was badly wounded, he managed to drive the Land Rover back to Limassol. The ACC cook was unhurt.

Sadly, Albert died from his wounds the next day Monday 23rd April 1956. He is buried in the Waynes Keep Military Cemetery, Nicosia. (Plot No.20.Row B.Grave 3).

Roy and his wife went to Cyprus in June 1989 and visited Albert's grave. They were escorted by S/Sgt. Smith, RAOC and his driver in a staff car because Waynes Keep lies in a 'Buffer Zone' between the Greek and Turkish sectors of Cyprus.

After passing out, Roy did a spell with 'B' Coy. as a trainee motor cycle instructor. He was then posted to 192 Pro.Coy. Southill Barracks, Chatham, Kent and then immediately sent on detachment to Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey, supporting convoy duties to Portsmouth at the height of the Suez crisis.

Roy is a regular member of the Colchester and East Anglia Branch of the RMPA, and lives on Canvey Island, Essex.

Roy would be pleased to hear from any other ex member who may have also known or served with Albert Shaw.

Roy can be contacted by writing to him at: 2, Limburg Road, Canvey Island, Essex. SS8 0QJ. 'Phone:01268 697985.

E-Mail:roy\_hutson1@tiscali.co.uk

I thank Roy for this information which I'm sure will be of interest to other ex RMP.

Ian Dixon.

July 28th 2006



*The Plaque commemorating Albert Shaw was located in the Corps Chapel at Roussillon and no doubt will be displayed in the new facility at Southwick Park, Portsmouth. Courtesy: Roy Hutson*





*Roy at Albert's grave  
in June 1989  
Courtesy: Roy Hutson*

*Close-up of Albert's  
grave in June 1989  
Courtesy: Roy Hutson*

