

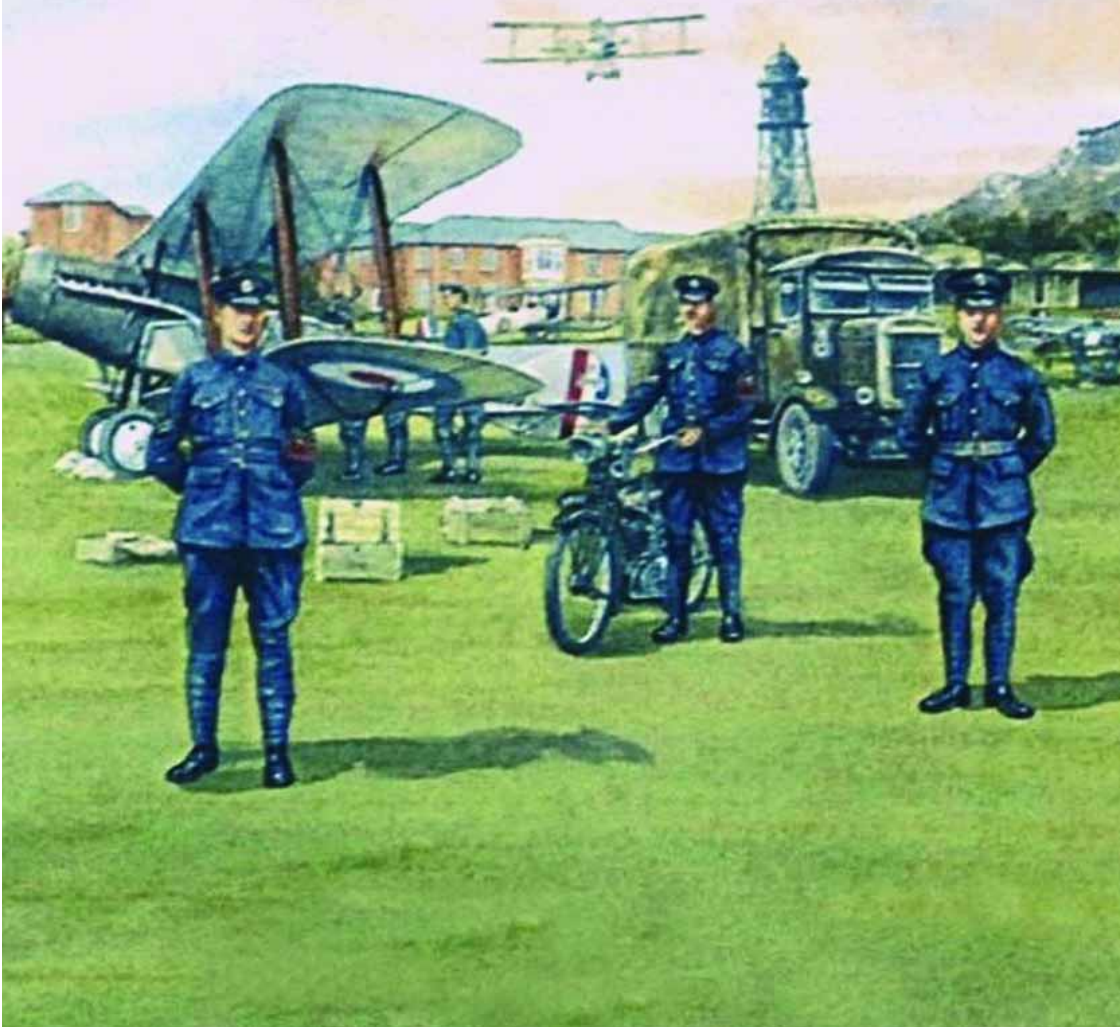
RAF POLICE 100

1918 - 2018



IN THE BEGINNING...

Supplement Celebrating 100 Years of the Royal Air Force Police



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In its first 100 years, the RAF Police (RAFP) have earned a sterling reputation at home and abroad for supporting RAF operations in conflict and in peacetime. The RAF formed on 1 April 1918, from the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and RN Air Service and on the same day the former RFC regimental police became the first RAFP.

Many words have been written about the RAF Police and doubtless many more are still to come, but to celebrate the centenary of the RAF Police a few more words to recognise the sterling achievements of this professional body will not go amiss.

In the first 20 years the WRAF disbanded (1920) but reformed in 1939 as the Women's Auxiliary Air Force; the first RAFP Mounted Section formed (1925); the RAFP were instrumental in the arrest of Dr Goetz a Nazi spy (1936) and; the Police School moved from Halton to Uxbridge (1937). Until the mid 1920s, because of reduced defence budgets along with Navy and Army rivalry, the RAF faced an uncertain future.

IN THE BEGINNING



WW2 Flight Officer M D George inspects her Troops



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1940, special training ensured that the RAF Police were ready for the Dunkirk evacuation, achieving a 100% success rate in vacating the beaches, sadly a number died when the boat they were travelling in was sunk.

Training at RAF Hendon was structured to detecting sabotage and espionage. Security of airfields was left to the Ministry of Aircraft Production Guard Dog School (MAPGDS) and in 1944 it transferred to RAF Police control. In World War Two the RAF Police were divided into 'Provost' who served in Districts and 'Station Police' who served on RAF Stations.

The Provost Police wore the brassard on their right arm and the Station Police wore a blue RAF SP Brassard on the left arm. Over the years much confusion and arguments have ensued over this point.

Prior to the Dam Busters raid, strict, tight security was operated by the RAF Police.



RAF and Military Police - Berlin



RAF Police units landed in Normandy on D-Day, supporting Canadian and 21st Army Groups, moving troops, equipment off the beaches and supervising security for stores and ammunition.

The Great Escape...

The RAFF were Tasked by the War Crimes Judge Advocate to investigate the murder of 50 captured RAF Officers from Stalag Luft 111. Known as The Great Escape, Wg Cdr Wilfred' Bowes and Sqn Ldr Francis McKenna, successfully prosecuted.

During this time the wearing of white webbing and hat covers spawned the name 'Snowdrops'.



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Murder of POW escapee!



Combined Police Patrol



Berlin Wall

Aden was a British colony with an important strategic position during WW2. From 1958 until November 67 when British forces withdrew 57 servicemen and British civilians were killed and 700 wounded, during the Egyptian sponsored anti-British terrorist acts within the colony. The main RAF units were Steamer Point, Khormaskar, Riyan, Salt Pans and Al-Hiswah'

Singapore and Malaya. In 1946 at RAF Changi RAF Police Auxiliaries were formed and in 1971 celebrated their Silver Jubilee. RAF Tengah built in 1939 and occupied by the RAF was formerly handed over to the Singapore Armed Forces and in December the RAF withdrew from Changi.

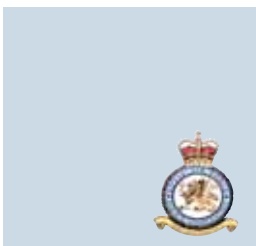
In 1951 Egypt reneged on its 20 years treaty whilst Britain refused to acknowledge King Farouk. Hostilities increased and kidnappings and murders of service personnel increased.

Ceylon (Sri Lanka) The RAF moved onto Ceylon during WW2, c1941 and left in 1960. The main station Negombo was handed over to the Royal Ceylon Air Force in November 1957. Many of the buildings built by the RAF are still being used, especially the Guard Room.



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Static Guard Duties



Primary Observation Tower

Peacock posturing by Russia and America led to a build up of nuclear weapons and in the late '50's the RAF Police became responsible for the security of Britain's nuclear arsenal. Posted to 'Bomber Command' was a soul destroying sentence. RAF Gaydon, Marham, Geilenkirchen, Wildenrath, Laarbruch, Scampton, Waddington and Wittering were some of the places you didn't want to be posted to.

V bombers, ready to scramble, bomb dumps, silos, sodium lights, chain link fences, dog patrols, twenty four hour coverage, all weathers. Foot patrols and staying warm were priorities as well as fighting numbing boredom.

At the same time Cyprus was in a state of unrest, with EOKA, Greek Cypriot terrorists fighting a bloody war against Turkish Cypriots and the British. In 1960 Cyprus became independent and Archbishop Makarios became the first President.

Between 1956 and 1972 the RAF Police kept a Mounted Section at RAF Akrotiri.

In July 1974 Greek Cypriots attempted to depose Makarios. Fearing that it was an attempt to annex the island, Turkish forces invaded and occupied Northern Cyprus forming a safe haven for Turkish Cypriots.

Through all these events the RAF Police worked to protect service personnel, their families and military property.



Tony McGlinchey on Tarzan and Ted Hellewell on Lemon

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Bishops Court NI 1980 - Jim Gordon and Kev Craddock



SWINGING SIXTIES ENDS!

Operation Banner 1969 to 2007 was for UK troops to confront republican and loyalist terror groups and sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. The RAF Police provided assorted specialist skills and deployed with the RMP to carry out patrols in the Province.

In the 70's RAFP dogs were trained to detect controlled drugs, firearms and explosives. HRH Princess Margaret took the first Royal Review at RAF Debden.

During the 1970's and 80's, military forces including the RAFP deployed on fire fighting and HM Prison duties when the respective services went on strike. Further deployment was made at Greenham Common to ensure anti-nuclear protesters did not breach the security area that housed cruise missiles.

In Germany, RAFP counter-terrorist patrols were increased to combat IRA activities, after they had killed and wounded UK military personnel and their families. In 1989 the Cold War ended and the Berlin Wall was demolished. The male dominated trade of dog handling ended and females started training as dog handlers.

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CND Demonstrator apprehended



Greenham Common - Brian Flinn





RAF Police Mentoring Team in Afghanistan

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In early 1991 RAFP working alongside US coalition troops provided a range of services to bases launching air strikes in Kuwait. A swift victory followed and RAFP dog handlers were deployed to guard Iraqi prisoners. A bloody civil war within the former Yugoslavia (1993-2010) tasked to multilateral peacekeeping by UN and NATO. Throughout this period RAFP deployed in RAF operations in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo and Macedonia.

September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked and killed thousands of people in NY and Washington. As a result the USA and UK commenced Operation Enduring Freedom, launching raids against Al-Qaeda and Taliban targets in Afghanistan. RAF Police were among the first UK ground troops to enter Afghanistan.

As a result of Saddam Hussein frustrating UN efforts to disarm, Operation Telic began therapid formation of RAFP close protection teams to provide for the safety of UK force commanders. RAFP specialists provided a computer forensic capability in the search for WMD's. The war to win the peace proved to be difficult and RAFP remained until UK forces withdrew in 2009.

Since the early 2000's RAF Police have supported UK operations in Iraq and based in Afghanistan employing ATSy duties and tasked with gathering intelligence for the Provincial Reconstruction Team as well as supporting NATO, RAF and Afghan security operations.

2004 the RAFP were based in Afghanistan giving security protection for aircrew and ATSy duties at Kabul and Kandahar. RAFP remained in Afghanistan until 2014.

Aug 2005 – RAF Police ATSy NCOs on board RAF C-17 Globemaster fly to Petropavlovsk in East Russia to deliver British equipment to help rescue Russian Navy mini-submarine AS-28 Priz with a crew of seven, trapped on the ocean floor off Russia's isolated Kamchatka Peninsula.

6 Sep 2005 – Ceremony at RAF Henlow to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the start of the investigation into the murder of 50 RAF officers who were recaptured after the Great Escape from Stalag Luft III in Mar 1944.

24 Sep 2005 - Service took place in St Georges Church Halton to dedicate a window, commissioned jointly by the RAF Police and RAF Police Association, which displayed the two crests in stained glass.



In October 2005 RAF Police, RM Police and Royal Navy Police moved into the Defence College, Southwick Park, Hampshire. After a major reorganisation of the RAFP the 'Snowdrops' were no longer responsible for the day to day routine security and armed guarding, these duties being taken over by Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS). With these duties removed, four RAFP Squadrons were formed, No.4 Sqn (Lossiemouth) No.5 Sqn (Waddington), No.6 Sqn (Marham) and No.7 Sqn (Brize Norton) who undertook general police duties, higher level security and ATSy. Also 3 Tactical Police Squadrons, responsible for all tactical operations and global commitments were based at RAF Honington.

Feb 2007 – The PDSA Dickin Medal; the Animals' Victoria Cross, was awarded posthumously to 'Lucky' on behalf of 4 RAF Police tracker dogs that had worked tirelessly in the Malayan jungle between 1949 - 1952. Lucky's award was accepted by former WO B A Stapleton, who retired from the RAF in Nov 1981. As a Cpl he had been the loyal German Shepherd's handler during the Malayan Campaign when Lucky, Bobbie, Jasper & Lassie had been instrumental in the capture of hundreds of communist terrorists.

Aug 2007 - In the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, members of the RAF Police, along with colleagues from the Macedonian Military Police (Voena Policija), the Polish Military Police (Zandarmeria), the Italian Military Police (Arma Dei Carabinieri), the United States Air Force Security Police and the United States Naval Police, continued to form part of the International Military Police (IMP) section based at Camp Able Sentry in the capital Skopje.

On the 5th September 2008, the second Royal Review of the RAFP was taken by HRH Prince Edward at RAF Henlow.

Southwick House - Officers' Mess



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HRH Inspects RAFP contingent



Flt Lt Kevin Putland (right)



Female Dog Handler in Afghanistan

16 Mar 2009 – For the first time in the history of the RAF Police, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary carried out a formal inspection of HQ RAF Police at RAF Henlow.

22 Apr 2009 - Despite having only recently returned from a gruelling 6-month tour of duty in Basra, 21 members of B Flight, No1 Tactical Police Squadron, along with other RAF Police personnel from No 2 RAF Police Wing, were deployed to the Joint Operating Base (JOB) at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan as an 'early entry team' to support a sudden demand in force protection (FP) measures.

15 Jun 2010 - The RAF Police Flight (a detachment of No 7 RAF Police Squadron) stationed at RAF Lyneham, was rewarded for its outstanding efforts throughout Operation PABBAY; the police and security arrangements connected to the repatriation of service personnel killed in action overseas, by the award of the Provost Marshal's Commendation.

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RAFP Homecoming Parade



Op Gritrock (Ebola Crisis) Medal



FS Max Tate 2012 Olympics

2012 critical security appointments put in place for the London Olympics. Involvement in a security operation to protect HRH Prince William during his training to become a helicopter pilot.

2014 November, last members of the RAF Police leave Kandahar. December, home coming parade at RAF Henlow marking the final deployment of Operation Herrick.

2015 June No.3 RAF Police Wing completed transfer from RAF Henlow to RAF Honington. October Operation Gritrock satisfactorily make efforts to bring the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone under formal control.

2016, Project Phoenix listed to restructure RAF Special Investigations (SIB). The new formations became operational in May 2016.

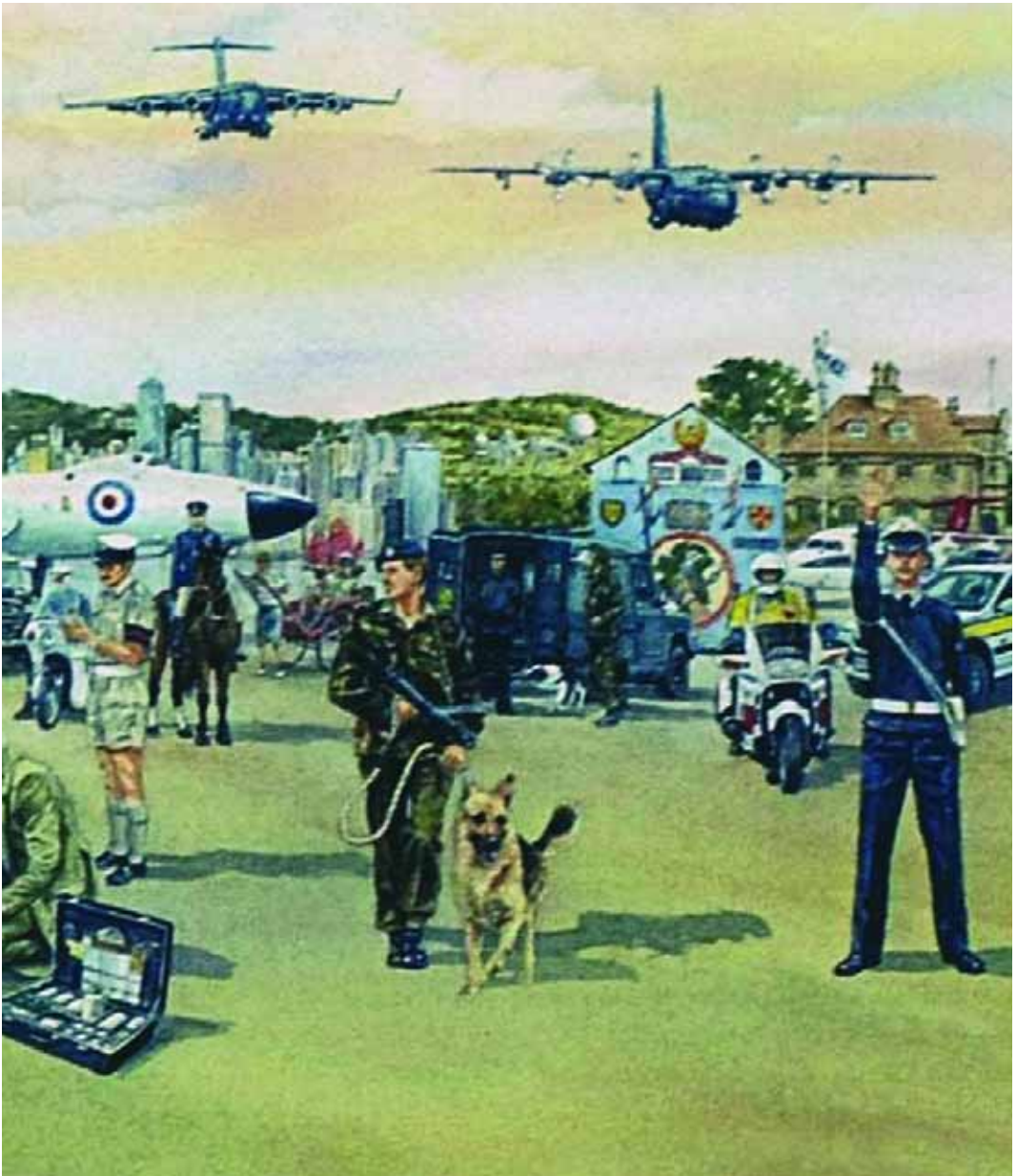
In 2016 Project Phoenix outlined more restructuring of the Special Investigation Branch (SIB) and Counter-Intelligence Squadron (CIS).

HQ RAF Police located at RAF Honington
SIB North located at RAF Cranwell
SIB South located at RAF Halton
Currently RAF Police are serving in the UK, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Falklands, Middle East, Diego Garcia and NATO HQ.

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Editor



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