Memories of 3/11th Regt. RMA(T)

by

Capt. Saviour P. Portelli

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Regimental Disbandment Parade, April 1972.
Leo Vassallo Cesareo wrote: This must be the last photo taken at the Officers' Mess after one of our usual dinners. Unfortunately there are quite a few who have left us, our Colonel Maurice Petrocochino, Maj. Beacom, Capts Bonello, Bonavia-Borg-Galea-Calleja and the youngest Lt Amato Gauci and many more. May they rest in Peace. 2014

The "Mixed uniforms" - only because some officers are wearing their No 1. The correct dress code was/is the "Mess Kit".
Patrick Caruana Dingli wrote; Recruits Passing Out Parade: Lt Col Antoine Pace Bonello (Commanding), Major Ronnie Abela (Adj) Capt P Caruana Dingli (O/C)
Officer Cadets Passing out Parade Fort St. Elmo 1962
Mr. N.A. Curmi 3rd Regt — Mr. G. Zammit 11 Regt — Mr. G.E. Kissau 3rd Regt., Mr. Maurice Tanti Burlo 3rd Regt — Front Mr. James Galea 3rd Regt — Lt Col E.A. Camilleri — Brig Gen The Lord Thurlow, Capt John Spiteri — Adjutant 3rd Regt — Mr. Baldacchino Kerr 1 KOMR
Godwin Hampton wrote: Upper Fort St Elmo, on Abercrombie Bastion. Seems to be the CO's inspection, Lt. Col. M.L. Petrocochino followed by Maj. R.J. Camilleri, the 2 i/c. I think that the officer going round the Meadows generator is the Adjutant, Capt. V Ganado.
Gun Safety Officer, Capt. Godwin Miceli.
3/11 LAD Regt RMA(T), training camp, Upper Fort St Elmo, 1966
Godwin Hampton wrote: Note the No.3 dress as it was originally. Later they started using the No.1 dress (dark blue) trousers instead. Up till the disbandment of the 3/11 Regt they were still unchanged.
Look at those hob nails !!!
Col. Ferro, Inspecting 15 Bty, 3 LAA Regt. 1956 with Lt. Wilfred Cousin on far left of photo.
Lt P Caruana Dingli and Lt M Tanti Burlo on the barracks rooftop drill ground at Lower Fort St. Elmo circa 1964.
HM The Queen and Prince Phillip with Maj. Philip Zammit Briffa.
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Patrick Caruana Dingli wrote: Lt Col E Micallef Eynaud (CO) with Capt F X Naudi (ADJ)
On the right is WOII R. Ferrante lowering the Regimental Flag for 11th Regt. whilst on the left is WOII Louis Bonello for 3rd Regt., during the amalgamation parade of 3/11 Regts.
Lt. Col Louis A Pace Bonello
Lt Col Antoine Pace Bonello
(Lt Col Louis Pace Bonello’s brother)
Capt. "Dickie" Camilleri
3LAA Regt. 15 Bty, 1957
Major Philip Zammit Briffa, Equerry to HE Queen Elizabeth II
3LAA Regt. Circa 1955
Regimental Sergeant Major Blackman
Inspection of .303 rifle barrels.
Lt Leo Vassallo Cesareo and detachment members of this Bofors L70 have dismantled the barrel and the contents of the breech casing, as evidenced by the hole just beneath the officer's chin! The Autoloader can be seen on the table, with other parts on the Lance-Bombardier's left.
Chiara Saunders wrote, from right: Col Cremona, Capt Evarist Saliba, extreme left: Major Formosa.
Inspecting: PM Borg Olivier,
21 May 2012
Major Micallef Trigona, 2 i/c 3LAA Regt following training at 'In action on wheels' on a Bofors L60
Patrick Caruana Dingli wrote: Capt J Borg Manduca handing over the Saluting Battery guns to Capt P Caruana Dingli. Parade at Tigne Barracks. The Maltese Cross is self-explanatory, the crest below it belongs to the RMA, the 153 appears to be a formation number emanating from the RMA.

Brig. Rupert Montanaro wrote: Re "153"; this was the Tac sign for 2nd Regiment RMA, at the time all units were allocated Tac signs which would normally be painted on coloured backgrounds according to the applicable arm, e.g. Artillery = blue/red; RASC = yellow/red.
Before disbandment, 3/11 Regt. RMA(T) were responsible for firing salutes whenever a NATO warship visited Malta. I was told that on one occasion a US Navy ship was close to the breakwater being given the customary salute. The embrasures were fitted with rather rusty steel shutters, and as one of the 25 pounders was being fired a gust of wind swung the shutter right in front of the barrel! The blast tore the shutter off the hinges and sent it flying, to land with a large splash in the middle of the Grand Harbour! A few seconds later, a radio message was received from the warship asking "What are you using, live ammunition??" .......... Can anyone confirm if this really happened, or is it just army folklore?

25 March 2012

Martin Galea wrote: I doubt it. The shutters open inwards, and in order for the blast not to bring down the whole embrasure, the guns are pushed right up to the wall, with the barrels out of the apertures. You can see this in the picture.

Patrick Caruana Dingli wrote: I commanded the Saluting Battery. During my term, nothing of the sort happened!!!!
Godwin Hampton wrote: I would expect that this is a Civil Defence rescue course at the Targa Gap training site. The civilian is H.E. Sir Maurice Dorman, Governor of Malta.
Guard of Honour, 8 September 1969.
H.E. Sir Maurice Dorman, Governor of Malta
with Capt. Saviour Portelli
Sir Anthony Joseph Mamo, K.U.O.M., OBE, QC (9 January 1909 – 1 May 2008) was the first President of Malta and previously served as the last Governor-General, representing Elizabeth II as Queen of Malta, when the country was a Commonwealth realm. He was also the first Maltese citizen to be appointed Governor-General, and before independence, briefly served as acting Governor.
Capt Patrick Caruana Dingli and Lt G Zammit
Geoffrey Maggi wrote: the gunner on the right is the #2 aimer and firer, the gunner in middle #4 loader and “engage” the gun to fire always shouting “Held” before and after engaging the leaver, the one on the left of gun #5 loader. The gun doesn't have the sights mounted on it.
Patrick Caruana Dingli wrote: First salute fired by the Saluting Battery given in response to that of the Isreali destroyer Eilat which was later sunk by the Egyptians during the 1967 Six Day War. O/C, Capt P Caruana Dingli and Staff Sergeant Formosa on his right.
Patrick Caruana Dingli wrote: I believe this to be the last parade of the Regiment before disbandment, held at Upper Elmo in 1972. Lt Col M Petrococcino in command. The parade was reviewed by Brig G Micallef.
Robert V. Ferrante wrote: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth inspecting a Guard of Honour mounted by 11th Light Air Defense Regiment RMA(T) on her arrival at Luqa airport.

Jofy Mainzer wrote: I take it that the ADC to the Queen is my late brother Maj. Philip Zammit Briffa. How lovely to see it. Thanks.
Godwin Hampton wrote: Parade Square, AFM Barracks, Luqa. The four 3.7" Heavy Anti-Aircraft guns donated to the Maltese People by Mr. Stan Fraser, a veteran of the Royal Artillery 7th HAA Regiment stationed in Malta during the siege. For more info try and get the video "Guns for Malta". 8 July 2012

Ivan M. Consiglio wrote: The central building of three at Luqa Barracks, formerly an RAF transit camp for their personnel travelling to/from Far/Middle East stations. The building housed HQ 2nd (Composite) Regiment till disbandment in late October 2006, but now houses HQ 4th Regt AFM which is a support services unit for AFM's brigade HQ. Behind this building, the Central Bank was allowed to construct a state of the art bunker vault house for the new Euro currency's paper and coin monies, which during last year's Libyan crises was reminiscent of some Afghani warzone motor-pool yard, with Brit SAS and SAS, Canadian and US special forces squeezed in there. The view below my office window was daily a buzz of activity!
Front Row: V.Ganado (Adj), E.N.Borg, R.J.Camilleri (2 I/C), M.L.Petrocochino (CO), E.R.Bonavia, P.J.Beacom, Fr.A.Vella (Chaplain)
Patrick Caruana Dingli wrote: This photo is of the officers of 2 HAA REGT RMA and was taken in September 1942. The connection with 3/11 REGT is in the 2nd row. Third and fourth from left are Maurice Petrochino and Louis Radmilli. Others I think I can recognise in the front row are Lt Col. R F Jacono, Brig. G Micallef, Col GZ Tabona and Maj F Amato Gauci, 2, 4, 5, 7 from left.

7 July 2012

Peter Micallef wrote: Front row 4th from right Walter Bonello. Middle row 3rd in from right Alfred Briffa.