

## Obituary – Lionel Charles Albert Knight, QPM

We are sad to announce the passing of retired member and former ACC Lionel Knight QPM, 96 years, on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

Lionel Charles Albert Knight was born on 2nd April 1925 in Hawley, Hampshire. He left school in 1939 at the age of 14 and trained as a butcher. He joined the local Home Guard unit when his age allowed and enlisted in the Royal Hampshire Regiment as soon as he was 18.

Initially with the 12th Battalion (Btn) in Northern Ireland, he was subsequently posted to 7th Btn for invasion training, and then - because of his anti-tank and heavy mortar qualifications - was seconded to the 1st Btn Fire Support Company for the D-Day landings.

He re-joined the 7th Btn after it arrived in Normandy and following the fierce battle for Hill 112 and the village of Maltot - where he was captured, but quickly escaped - the battalion fought through northern France, Belgium, Holland, and into Germany.

After VE Day, when initially stationed in Belgium, he met his future wife, Madeleine, whom he married in Bruxelles in 1947 while on leave from his unit in Germany. He was eventually demobilised in 1948, as a corporal.

On returning to Hawley, he joined the Air Ministry Constabulary - later the Air Force Department Constabulary, and the Ministry of Defence Police - in which he recorded the following service:

|          |  |                      |
|----------|--|----------------------|
| 1948 Apr | National Gas Turbine Establishment, Pyestock     | Constable            |
| 1950 Aug | No 48 Maintenance Unit, RAF Hawarden, Chester    | Sergeant             |
| 1951 Nov | Recall to NGTE Pyestock                          | Sergeant             |
| 1953 Dec | RAF/USAF Burtonwood, Warrington                  | Sub Inspector        |
| 1954 Apr | No 48 Maintenance Unit, RAF Hawarden, Chester    | Sub Inspector        |
| 1955 Sep | No 61 MU RAF Handforth, Cheadle Hulme            | Inspector            |
| 1955 Nov | Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough        | Inspector            |
| 1962 Oct | No 14 Maintenance Unit, RAF Carlisle             | Chief Inspector      |
|          | Jun-Sep 1969 AFDC Training School, Debden (temp) | Temp Supt            |
| 1971 Feb | Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern               | Superintendent 2     |
| 1974 Jun | HQ Eastern Area, MOD First Avenue                | Superintendent 1     |
| 1974 Sep | HQ Eastern Area, MOD First Avenue                | Chief Superintendent |
| 1977 May | HQ Eastern Area, Medmenham                       | Chief Superintendent |
| 1977 Jun | HQ Central Area, Empress State Building          | Chief Superintendent |
| 1977 Jul | HQ Southern Area, Aldershot                      | Acting ACC           |
| 1977 Sep | HQ Southern Area, Aldershot                      | ACC                  |
| 1983 Apr | Retired  |                      |

He received the PLSGC medal in 1970 and was awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in the 1983 Birthday Honours List - the first to be awarded for service in the MDP.

After his retirement, he continued to live in Farnham, and served the local community as a member of the Crime Prevention Panel, Police & Community Partnership Group, and as Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. In 2012 he was given a Town Council Award for outstanding services to Farnham.

Lionel Knight died unexpectedly on 31st December 2021 in Farnham, aged 96 years.

We are grateful to Lionel's son Michael for compiling this obituary and record of service.