



Michael Anthony "Mike" Nash, 1948-2001  
(In 16 Para Bde, he was known as "Mick")

Mike, as he preferred to be known, was born in Islington, N London, and moved at a young age to Borehamwood.

Mike enlisted in R Sigs in Feb 1965. His parents did not want him to join the Army, so he obtained signatures from a friend's family to enable his entry, and informed his parents afterwards. It was determination like this that continued throughout his life. At Catterick he was trained as a Radio Telegraphist. Subsequently he volunteered for Airborne Forces and on completion of 'P' Coy and parachute training was posted to 216 Para Sig Sqn. In 1967, the Sqn provided a large detachment to 1 PARA for an operational tour of Aden. Mike was one of three Signalmen attached to 'D' (Patrol) Coy as Riflemen. On completion of the tour, he was awarded the GSM (1962) with clasp, South Arabia.

In 1971, Mike completed an operational tour in N Ireland with HQ 16 Para Bde & Sig Sqn. The photo was taken during that time. After the tour he was awarded the clasp N Ireland to his GSM. In Aug 1974, he left regular service in the rank of Cpl, with an exemplary record.

In 1974, Mike became a Bus Driver with London Transport (LT), eventually becoming Assistant Operations Manager at an LT garage. In 1994, he joined Sovereign Bus & Coach Company, to drive buses around Hertfordshire. He had to leave this job in 2000 due to ill-health, because he said, "of a dicky ticker." He was then employed by the Corps of Commissionaires, and within a short period of time was promoted Sgt, the position he held until his untimely death.

Also In 1974, Mike joined the Royal British Legion in Borehamwood, where he was elected Branch Vice-Chairman, and showed his organisational skills and a willingness to serve others. Additionally in 1974, he joined 10 PARA (V), with whom he served until 1988. He stayed in Borehamwood until 1994, when he moved to Hatfield, and married, (fourthly), Sue.

Shortly after moving to Hatfield, Mike joined the Hertford & District Branch PRA. He was a popular member there, and his abilities were soon recognised. As Chairman he was efficient and energetic in leading the Branch, organising social functions, charring meetings, and being at the forefront of all welfare work, although not well himself. He was also keen to maintain and improve the Branch's relations with the Royal British Legion, the Royal Marines Association, and the Royal Naval Association (in Hatfield). Mike was well supported by Sue; the Branch's hard working Assistant Secretary.

Mike had suffered from a bad heart for several years. After corrective surgery in 2000, he appeared to be on the way to better health, and was able to attend Airborne Forces Day in July. However, on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2001, Mick suffered a massive heart attack, and died in hospital. He was 53. Mike was survived by his father Charles, 84, as well as wife, Sue, two children, Janice & Paul, and three Grandchildren, Joshua, Jaydene, & Aleysha. Our deepest sympathy to them all.

At his funeral, the large church of St Ethelredas in Hatfield was packed with family and friends. Mourners included three of Mick's four wives, old comrades from 216 Para Sig Sqn, together with the Standards of The Royal British Legion (Borehamwood), the Royal Marine Association (Hatfield), the Royal Naval Association (Hatfield), and the Parachute Regt Association (Hertford & District). The path up to the church door was fully lined by a Guard of Honour with Standards, formed by organisations with which Mike had been involved for so many years.

It was good knowing you, Mike. You will be a hard act to follow.

(Extracted from Pegasus Journal, 2001, author unknown)

(Edited for clarity, Richard Hamilton, 2012) - R.I.P. Mick Nash, Airborne Brother.