

## A Tribute to Richard C. A. 'Mountain Rescue' McAllister

By Ed 'Hazukashii' Howell

This is not an obituary, but a celebration of life of another great hashman. Mountain Rescue passed away last week, but his memory lives on with the Hash House Harriers. I was first introduced to Mountain Rescue back in 2011, due to a random question. During a post hash dinner, while living in Stuttgart, a random question was posed wondering who started, and where was, the first hash in Germany. This got me curious, and I started doing some research and made my first report on hash history. My research led me to Mountain Rescue, thus beginning a long email conversation.

Years later, in 2025, while crisscrossing England on a hashing excursion, I dropped in on the Deepcut H3. This is a Wednesday morning hash for retirees, so I fit right in. At the start I was chatting with a



fellow hasher, and while telling me of their hash, he pointed across the parking lot at an older gentleman saying he was a hash legend. Before I could ask anymore questions, it was circle up for chalk talk, and off we ran into the rainy morning. It was a great countryside trail, followed by lunch in the local tavern. In conversation again, someone pointed over to that same old man saying, that is Mountain Rescue . . . I immediately walked over and introduced myself, and we ended up chatting for nearly an hour.

This is not a complete resume of his hashing activities, but certainly enough to give you an idea of how much he loved the hash:

Richard C. A. McAllister (a.k.a. Mountain Rescue later in life), started hashing in Brunei in 1965. After the Brunei Revolt concluded in 1966, he was reassigned to Malaysia where he founded the 16<sup>th</sup> hash club ever, the **Kluang H3** on 23 Feb 1967, and ran with them for two years. Looking through the collective history of the Kluang Hash, there were 10 in attendance on the first run, nine harriers and one hare. There was also a comment . . . “founder member Richard McAllister dropped in from UK



for run 63 on 27 Aug having made his farewell appearance on run 42. A model of consistency, Richard, he missed only three out of those first 42 runs.” By the summer of 1970 a total of 82 hash runs had been conducted, at which point the rest of the unit would be reassigned, and the final note in the history of the Kluang hash reads . . .

*What of the future? There will certainly be a couple more runs as a combined group before the soldiers strike their tents and move on, and then the civilians intend to keep the Hash going, probably having one run a month. No matter what happens, the Kluang pack has truly fostered the spirit of the original, Hash House Harriers, and in doing so has given much pleasure and enjoyment to all besides fostering friendly links between civilians and soldiers. In conclusion, then, this brief "history" is offered as a farewell gesture to the Planters in fond and happy memory of the HASH - and the subsequent refreshment.*

As mentioned above, departing Kluang for England after run number 42, it was only a matter of time before Mountain Rescue set up the **Longmoor H3** on 12 May 1969, the 24<sup>th</sup> hash club ever, and the first hash club in the UK. He explained it as follows . . .

*The [Longmoor] Hash was run on a Monday evening and the first meet started on 12 May 1969. On this first, there were four ex-GTR members (three instructors and one older student) who had all run with Kluang. The North Hants Hash celebrated the fifty years anniversary by running over the training areas at Longmoor. Mind you, I didn't recognise any of the area 50 years on!*

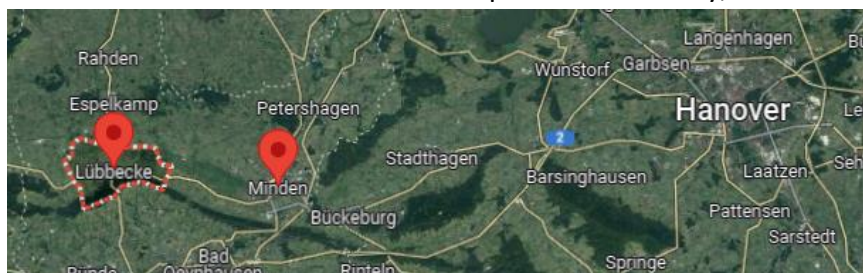


*Inevitably the time came for me to be posted and so I handed over to Ralph. When he was posted, I believe he handed over to some medics who were based at their school in Keogh Barracks, not far from Aldershot. I have a feeling they changed the name to Aldershot and District H3 but there are no surviving records to prove this (not even in their museum!). I have hunted for any surviving reports and records but nothing has come to light. Hash subs were two shillings which covered the beers for each event. Can't remember what the beers were*

*called but came in a predominantly blue and gold can. It wasn't too bad...*

After a couple years leading the Longmoor H3, he was subsequently transferred to Germany, and in Jun 1971 founded the **Lübbecke H3**, the first hash club in Germany (and all of Central Europe).

During the years of occupation, the British forces would bring in one of their favorite pastimes, hare and hounds, also known as the Hash House Harriers. Mountain Rescue explained . . . "Sadly, I have no record of the precise start date for the first Hash in Germany but it was in the summer of 1971 and was made up of members of the staff of Headquarters 2nd Division in Lübbecke, near Minden."



Mountain Rescue (MR) also provided a picture of the original hashers in that club, stating that these were the . . . “first group of fourteen who formed on the lawn outside the Officers Mess, a building previously used by Hitler for his Youth Leader trainers. We met every week in all weathers.” As you can see from the map above, this area has plenty of greenery, which would make for excellent trails. MR add . . .

*Trails were laid in sawdust (even then, German law would not allow us to use the paper trails we were used to in the Far East) that was readily available at no cost to the Hash from local woodcutters. We became experts in recognising the age of sawdust as the concentration of deposits increased around the close area of the Mess. Beer was always at hand in the bar.*

MR also mentioned they did not confine their trails to the local forest, but would take advantage of opportunities to drive further out for new adventures, adding . . . “We didn't have official Hash T shirts, nor did we have names, although I was called 'Wheeze' (despite being a non-smoker and non-asthmatic, I used to puff a bit on the many hills round and about).” Being an occupation force for many years by this point, families were also allowed to join their husbands. As MR put it . . . “It was still a men's non-athletic running club although the institution of the Hash Pash provided the ladies the chance to catch up with their menfolk and the parties would go on well into the early hours.” MR spoke fondly of his time in Germany, and closed with . . . “On being posted out of Germany in 1973, I left all the records with the Headquarters that has since moved to the UK and I guess the records didn't make it back.”

Mountain Rescue would go on to found the Dharan H3 in East Nepal in 1983, and the Buller & Aldershot H3 also in the UK in 1985.

That is not the end of the story for the Longmoor H3 though, as one of the early hashers there would also be the founder of the [first hash club in North America](#). Maj Frank Arnold had been hashing in Longmoor and learning from Mountain Rescue, so when his eventual reassignment took him to the USA, he took hashing with him to Virginia where he established the Fort Eustis H3 on 8 Nov 1971.

Happy Trails and enduring peace, breaking checks and telling stories over a beer in the eternal hash circle my friend. On On.

