



*Ad Unum Omnes*

From the Secretary – Maj (Retd) PA Raison



# THE PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patron: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, KG, KT, PC, GCB, AK, QSO, ADC

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS  
THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT  
MERVILLE BARRACKS  
CIRCULAR ROAD SOUTH  
COLCHESTER  
ESSEX  
CO2 7UT

TEL: 01206 817073

MIL: 94660 7073

Email: [secretary@prahq.com](mailto:secretary@prahq.com)

[www.theparachuteregimentalassociation.com](http://www.theparachuteregimentalassociation.com)

1 September 2017

## Regional and Branch Secretaries

Please see below the monthly news from RHQ PARA. If you have anything you would like to promote in this please send submissions by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month to the Secretary at [secretary@prahq.com](mailto:secretary@prahq.com)

## Topics:

- A. Remembrance Day Parade - Cenotaph
- B. Charity Commission News
- C. Active Member Survey
- D. Executive Committee Meeting
- E. Christmas Hamper Applications
- F. PRA Media

## Events

- G. Pass Out Parades
- H. Arnhem 2017
- I. 35th anniversary of the Falklands war Dinner Dance 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- J. Aden 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration 28/29 October 17
- K. Diary Dates

## A. Remembrance Day Parade - Cenotaph

This year's Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph will take place on Sunday 12 November 2017. The Association has only been allocated 130 places to march and to date we have received 55 applications. Once again the method of registering has changed and all those wishing to march must be entered onto the Royal British Legion online system database. The information required is the same as last year:

- 1. Name
- 2. Date of Birth
- 3. Place of Birth
- 4. Address
- 5. Service Number

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

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Anyone who has not registered must do so by 15 September 2017. The online booking system will close on this date and no further applications will be accepted. All Branch Secretaries are requested to inform their members and ensure they are aware of the changes and submit any applications to this HQ. All those attending on the day must carry photo proof of identity.

#### **B. Charity Commission News**

The Charity Commission News is a quarterly newsletter, which provides essential information for charity trustees and their advisers. This is vital reading for any trustee within the Branches and provides a wealth of information on new ways in which to boost charity funds for organisations of all sizes. Further details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/charity-commission-news>

#### **C. Active Member Survey**

The Branch survey is gathering pace and a big thank you to all those that have responded so far. Branches can supply their list of members in whatever form they wish, handwritten or electronic copies are most welcome. So far we have received 17 of the 79 Branches membership lists. All returns to Julia at the earliest opportunity please.

#### **D. Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee (EC) will meet on Sat 14 October 17 in Coventry. Any Branch that would like a matter to be discussed at this meeting should go through their Regional Secretary and provide all the necessary research and background information. The EC meets bi-annually to discuss Association matters. These include membership, recruiting, discipline issues, Regimental events, media, finances, investments, fundraising and other matters of importance.

#### **E. Christmas Hamper Applications**

The Airborne Forces Security Fund (AFSF) is very kindly providing Christmas Hampers again this year and they are to be distributed to proven Ex-Airborne soldiers or their dependants, in need. They do not have to be members of the Parachute Regimental Association.

Hampers are normally delivered directly to the recipient by our supplier. Should branches wish to deliver them, the Branch Secretary's name and address should be included. Delivery is free to the UK Mainland and Ireland only.

The value of each hamper or cheque provided by the AFSF will be £75. Although the attached pro forma provides for three nominations per branch we appreciate it may be difficult to choose between one veteran and another. If you would like to add any additional names to the reverse side of the form, we will be very pleased to consider the request.

If you know of a veteran/widow, in need, residing in a nursing or care home, we can send them a cheque. Please add their details to the pro forma including the address and post code of the home. A veteran/widow in residential care can be nominated in addition to those living independently and will not count against the three plus nominations for hampers.

#### **F. PRA Media**

There have been a number of people offering their services to assist with the media aspects of the Association. Editors and administrators for both sites can be added at any time and any Branch member with adequate knowledge and experience would be a welcome addition to the team in regards to assisting or advising. If you are in a position to assist please contact the Secretary on: [secretary@prahq.com](mailto:secretary@prahq.com)

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## EVENTS

### G. Pass out Parades (POP)

If you have not attended a modern day POP before then why not organise a Branch trip? The next parades are as follows:

793 Athens Platoon	Friday 6 October 17
794 Oudna Platoon	Friday 17 November 17
795 Normandy Platoon	Friday 15 December 17

The parades take place at Helles Barracks, Catterick. Please ensure that you make contact with ITC Catterick prior to attending as cancellations do occur with minimum notice given.

### H. Arnhem 2017

The Arnhem commemorations will take place over the weekend 15-17 September 2017. The outline of events is as follows:

Fri 15 Sep		
0900	Airborne Monument	Wreath Laying opposite Hartenstein Museum
0930	Hartenstein	Stone of Friendship, Hartenstein Museum
1900	Airborne Plein	Arnhem City Hall, Airborne Plein Memorial

Sat 16 Sep		
1000	Ginkel Heath	Parachuting starts
1100	Ginkel Heath	Remembrance Service
1430	Driel	Polish service
1430	Hartenstein	RAF Service and wreath laying
1900	Heelsum	Airborne Monument wreath laying

Sun 17 Sep		
0900	Old Kirk	Church Service
1100	Oosterbeek Cemetary	Memorial Service

These are the key events that will be supported by RHQ and it would be great to see any of our members there should they wish to take part.

### I. 35th anniversary of the Falklands war Dinner Dance 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017

The Rochdale Branch PRA are holding a dinner dance to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Falklands war. This will be held on Saturday 30th September at the Best Western Broadfield Hotel, Rochdale.

For further information please contact the Branch Chairman Wayne Rostron on 01706 342298.

### j. Aden 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration 28/29 October 17

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1 PARA's operational tour in Aden and the tactical withdrawal on 29 Nov 1967, it is planned to hold a reunion for all those members of the battalion and attached Arms, who took part in this tour. The venue is Aldershot over the weekend Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

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The aim will be to remember the three members of the battalion who lost their lives in the service of their country, with a commemorative service at The Royal Garrison (our Regimental) Church in Aldershot. We also want to rekindle old regimental friendships, forged during a hard and difficult operational tour. **This is likely to be the last such reunion so please come and support your very own “Band of Brothers”.**

If you are interested in joining your fellow Airborne Warriors for the PARA Aden 50 Reunion then register with us, by contacting John Carey ([jmc9365@msn.com](mailto:jmc9365@msn.com)) by email.

**K. Diary Dates**

4 Nov 17	3 PARA El Gamil dinner	Colchester	Details will be available shortly.
9 Nov 17	RBL Field of Remembrance	Westminster	
10 Nov 17	St Paul & St Lawrence Jewry	London	
12 Nov 17	Remembrance Day	London	Please register by 15 Sep 17
24 Nov 17	Annual Officers Dinner	London	

**Details of all these events and others are available on the Web Page at [www.theparachuteregimentalassociation.com](http://www.theparachuteregimentalassociation.com)**

*Paul Raison*

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