



*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

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1 October 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. Arnhem 17
- B. Parachute Regimental Association Diaries
- C. Airborne Assault Collection - Scotland
- D. Charity Commission News
- E. Calendar Events 2018
- F. Active Member Survey
- G. Executive Committee Meeting
- H. Christmas Hamper Applications
- I. PRA Media

### Events

- J. Pass Out Parades
- K. Future Arnhem Dates
- L. Aden 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration 28/29 October 17
- M. Remembrance Day Parade 2017
- N. Diary Dates

### A. Arnhem 17

September 2017 saw a very successful Arnhem Commemoration with plenty of Association representation throughout the week. The weekend started off on Friday with the laying of a wreath at the Needle, opposite the Hartenstein Museum, followed by the laying of flowers at the Stone of Friendship outside the museum. The same day a short service was held at the Oosterbeek Crossroads at the 21<sup>st</sup> Ind PARA memorial, supported by 4 PARA and led by the Padre of 1 PARA, who we thank for stepping in at very short notice. That evening there was a service at the Airborne Plein (Bear Pit) in Arnhem. The service was attended by a number of our Veterans, led by the Leader SSgt Laurie Weeden of the Glider Pilot Regiment. On the Saturday the majority

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made their way to Ginkel Heath to watch the Parachuting and attend the service led by the Padre of 4 PARA. Parachuting was unfortunately delayed in the first part of the morning but luckily the weather cleared up later in the day. The main event on Sunday was the service of remembrance at Oosterbeek cemetery. This was attended by hundreds of people and led by the former Padre of 4 PARA Jeff Cuttell as well as representatives from all Countries involved. This was a moving service, which culminated in the children from the surrounding schools, along with some from UK schools, laying flowers on the graves of those buried there. There are a number of people that have asked about the dates for 2018 and 2019 so that they can plan ahead, especially for the 2019 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I have included the dates in the events section.

#### **B Parachute Regimental Association Diaries**

Michael Hurst has very kindly taken on the production and sale of the Association Diaries this year. The style of the diary is the same as last year with a Red flash on the front and back cover with the Regimental Badge overlaying the Pegasus and Parachute Regimental Association printed in silver with the same organiser diary and notepad.

As last year the delivered price, per diary including postage and packing will be £2.75 with a minimum order to meet this price of 8 diaries. This is excellent value for money.

Can I please ask all Branches to promote this to their members as a priority. There has been some considerable time and effort put into producing this diary for our members. Full details are available on the attached form.

#### **C. Airborne Assault Collection – Scotland**

Introduction and Project Summary - Within the Boundaries of Dumfries & Galloway Aviation Museum (D&GAM) is held the only dedicated Airborne Forces museum in Scotland. At present this is held in a small portakabin-type building, and only a fraction of the collection can be displayed within it. This collection is curated by Sgt James Kilbride, ex 2 PARA and 4 PARA and also the custodian of the Dakota gate guardian at Merville Barracks, Colchester.

There is an ongoing project to relocate this collection to a purpose-built 2,500 square foot display building, allowing the whole collection to be displayed in one secure and dedicated location. This will allow the collection's Horsa and Hotspur glider sections, Airborne jeep, and Hadrian glider to be displayed under cover alongside the extensive array of weapons, uniform, kit and personal histories held by the museum.

Full details are in the attached document. Any support would be greatly appreciated. All cheques should be made payable to The Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum. Care of James Kilbride, RHQ PARA, Merville Barracks, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7UT.

#### **D. Charity Commission News**

The Charity Commission News is a quarterly newsletter, which provides essential information for charity trustees and their advisers. There is some interesting reading in the latest edition concerning the use of personal data held by charities. This will affect all Branches of the Association in regards to the protection of personal data. The key takeaway from this are the Principles:

#### **DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES**

1. Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully.
2. Data shall be obtained for specific purposes and only processed in accordance with those purposes.
3. Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive.
4. The data shall be accurate and up to date.
5. Data shall be kept only as long as is necessary for the specified purposes.

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6. Data shall be processed in accordance with the data subjects' rights under the new Act.
7. Data shall be kept secure.
8. Data shall be transferred outside the European Economic Area only when the country in question ensures an adequate level of protection for Data Subjects.

The new rules on how we manage data will come into effect in May 2018. 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>

#### **E Calendar Events 2018**

I will shortly be updating the calendar events on both the website and Facebook page. If anyone has any confirmed dates for events in 2018 that their Branch is organising please let me know. Please provide dates and timings along with as much information as you can at the present time.

#### **F. Active Member Survey**

The Branch survey continues 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 only received 22 of the 79 Branches membership lists which has generated a total of 880 'Active Members'. All returns to Julia at the earliest opportunity please.

#### **G. Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee (EC) will meet on Sat 14 October 17 in Coventry. The EC have a full agenda for the day and any comments or points should go through your Regional Secretary, providing all the necessary research and background information required.

#### **H. 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.

#### **I. 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. We will

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very shortly be losing a key member of the team here at RHQ so if you are in a position to assist please contact the Secretary on: [secretary@prahq.com](mailto:secretary@prahq.com)

## EVENTS

### J. 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
796 Arnhem Platoon	Friday 23 February 18
797 Bruneval Platoon	Friday 27 April 18

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.

### K. Future Arnhem Dates

For planning purposes please note the future dates for the Arnhem Commemorations

74 <sup>th</sup>	2018	21-23 Sep
75 <sup>th</sup>	2019	20-22 Sep

### L. 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.

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.

### M. Remembrance Day Parade 2017

Applications to march at this year's Cenotaph parade are now closed. The parade will be led by Major General (Retd) Dair Farrar-Hockley MC. The Association has been allocated Column 'A' which means we will be at the head of the parade. The outline timings for the event are as follows:

0800	Horse Guards open
1000	Contingents are to be Assembled ready to march into Whitehall
1005	Contingents step off from Horse Guards as directed by Parade Marshals
1050	All contingents to be formed up in Whitehall
1059	Her Majesty The Queen arrives at the Cenotaph
1100	Two Minute Silence

All those attending must bring photographic ID such as a passport or driving licence.

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**N. Diary Dates**

4 Nov 17 El Gamil dinner Novotel, Bostock Lane, East Midlands, NG10 4EP

Anyone wishing to attend should contact Jim Feeney on: [james.feeney148@btinternet.com](mailto:james.feeney148@btinternet.com)

9 Nov 17	RBL Field of Remembrance	Westminster	
10 Nov 17	St Paul & St Lawrence Jewry	London	
12 Nov 17	Remembrance Day	London	Entry now closed
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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