



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 December 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 25th of each month to the Secretary at secretary@prahq.com

Topics:

- A. Breach of Security
- B. Release of the Chennai Six
- C. Cenotaph Parade
- D. Sandy Receives Award
- E. Brass Pegasus
- F. Christmas Hampers 2017 – Final Call
- G. Online Membership Form
- H. Charity Commission News
- I. Welfare Process
- J. Active Member Survey
- K. Newsletter Articles
- L. PRA Assistant
- M. New ID Card
- N. Attendance at Funerals
- O. RHQ Christmas Closure

Events

- P. Pass Out Parades
- Q. Future Commemoration Dates 2018/2019
- R. Diary Dates

A. Breach of Security

There has recently been a series of breaches in security, involving a senior member of the Parachute Regiment. The release of personal letters and email addresses, meant for personal use and correspondence were shared to a wide group across the Association. This has been dealt with and the individual in question has been

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informed. Please ensure that messages meant for personal use and distribution are treated accordingly. This is not acceptable in the current climate.

B. Release of the Chennai Six

The so called ‘Chennai Six’ have been released. Among them were four members of The Parachute Regiment. It is expected that they will be flown back to the UK very shortly. This is great news follows a continued campaign to release them. RHQ will continue to support them and their families.

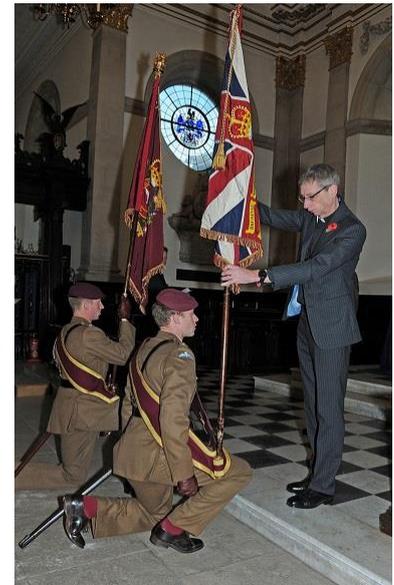
C. Remembrance Day

The Parade at the Cenotaph this year was a great success and our thanks to General (Retd) Dair Farrar-Hockley MC for leading the parade on the day. This year we were capped at 130 but somehow we managed to muster 140 on parade (Don’t ask), carefully marshalled by Laurie Ashbridge, Ex RSM 3 PARA. It was great to see all members of the Association marching together this year and the sea of maroon was well received by the crowd. Our thanks to everyone that took part on the day and those who turned up to cheer us on. The parade in 2018 will take place on Sun 11 Nov 18 and those wishing to march can submit their names at any time of the year leading up to it.

There were numerous ceremonies held across the Country, attended by individual members and Association Branches, representing The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces. Thank you all for taking part and promoting the Association. This was widely publicised, as seen in the many photographs on Facebook and local newspapers and television.

D. Sandy Receives Award

Sandy Milbank, who retired earlier this year as the Assistant to the Secretary, was recently awarded the Imperial Service Medal for 25 years in the Civil Service. She was presented with the medal by General Sir John Lorimer, DSO MBE at the St Lawrence Jewry service, held on Fri 10 Nov 2017. I hope you will all join me in congratulating her on this fantastic achievement.



E. Brass Pegasus

The provision of the Brass Pegasus for the Branch Standards is finally at an end. This has proved to be a long and difficult journey and I would like to personally thank Mike Harrison, Ex 16 Ind Co, Chairman Grimsby & Cleethorpes Branch for his hard work and determination in this matter.

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F. Christmas Hampers 2017 – Final Call

The Airborne Forces Security Fund (AFSF) has kindly increased the amount available for Christmas Hampers this year to £75. They will be distributed to proven ex-Airborne soldiers and their dependents in need. They do not have to be members of the Parachute Regimental Association. This comprises of 60 items delivered in a sturdy cardboard box anywhere in the UK with postage included in the price. In each box is a letter wishing the recipient 'Christmas Greeting from the Chairman, Trustees and staff of the Airborne Forces Security Fund'. Many of the recipients are widows or widowers living alone and the items have been chosen with the idea that several meals could be made up from the hamper contents.

Each PRA branch is asked to give us the name of three recipients but we are not too strict with this. The AFSF also send hampers to our annuitants and those living in Stoll. In addition, we send cheques for £75 to those living in 'military' residential care on their behalf, for example, Scottish Veterans Homes, Queen Alexandra Hospital Home, Star and Garter Home and Erskine. We also send cheques to those living in non-military homes.

Our Chelsea Pensioners receive a cheque for £25 as this is the stated limit set by The Royal Hospital. Attached to this newsletter are the covering letter and the application proforma, which must be filled in completely regardless of the method of delivery and returned to Mrs Gwen Appleton at the Airborne Forces Security Fund, RHQ PARA, Merville Barracks, Circular Road South, Colchester, CO2 7UT **by 15th December 2017**.

G. Online Membership Form

The new online membership form is proving very popular on the website, with 20 applications being processed in the first four weeks. Proof of eligibility of all categories is still required and files and photographs can be uploaded simply and easily.

H. 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>

I. Welfare Process

The Regimental Welfare team at RHQ PARA is here to assist any member of the Parachute Regiment or Airborne Forces in need. The process is designed to ensure transparency and provide an audit trail for any assistance given, which is a lawful requirement. The first part of the process must be initiated by a SSAFA or RBL caseworker. They will complete Form 'A' which is then submitted to the Regimental Welfare Team. They will then allocate funds from the Regimental Charities as required. The following numbers are very useful and should be used if you do not know your local SSAFA or RBL office number:

SSAFA Helpline: 0800 731 4880

RBL Helpline: 0808 802 8080

This is a very busy time of year for welfare issues to arise. Any Branch that requires assistance from the Regimental Welfare Team can call them on: 01206 817102 or see the website for details.

J. 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 received 35 of the 79 Branches membership lists which has generated a total of 1281 'Active Members'.

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The results so far indicate that we only have an estimated 3160 'Active Members' which is a far cry from the 10,000+ that has been previously quoted. All returns to the Secretary at the earliest opportunity please.

K. Newsletter Articles

The format and content of the monthly newsletter is aimed at all members and provides Branches with an opportunity to advertise or present events and information that would be of interest to all members. If you have any information that you would like to put forward to the newsletter please email the Secretary at: secretary@prahq.com

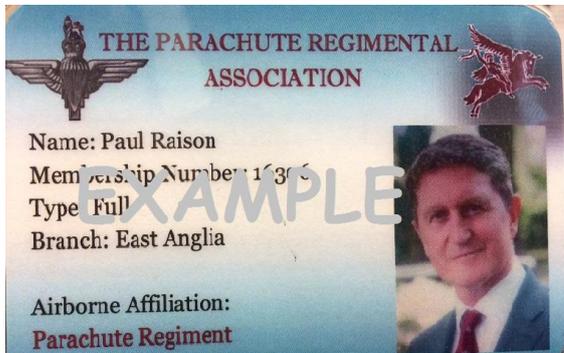
L. PRA Assistant

Following the departure on maternity leave by Julia, we are pressing the Civil Service for a replacement until she returns. I am now being assisted on an informal basis by Lisa Waller, who is the manager of Pegasus magazine. Please give her the support she requires while settling in and covering this additional workload. Thank you for your patience in certain matters and response times to queries.

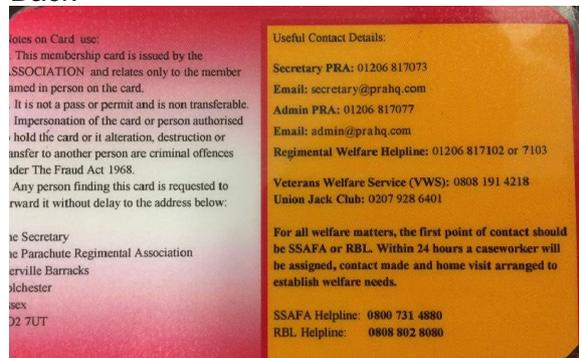
M. New ID Card

A new ID card is now being issued for all new members. The new card is being produced using the previous method but will eventually move towards a 'bank' type plastic card. The new card looks like this but will not show your Branch and will have the website address across the bottom:

Front



Back



For anyone losing or requiring a replacement card, the new type will be issued from now on.

N. Attendance at Funerals

There is a rising trend for requests for Association representation at funerals, from relatives of 'non-active' Airborne veterans who have sadly passed away. This information is routinely passed, as a matter of courtesy, to all Branches of the Association, with as much detail as possible. While it would be fitting for all such occasions to have such representation, this is not always possible and no guarantees are made to such applicants. I would like to thank all Branch Secretaries for passing on this information and especially those members who, often at short notice, attend such occasions. This means a great deal to the families concerned.

O. RHQ Christmas Closure

Please note that RHQ PARA will be closed from 22 Dec 17 – 2 Jan 18. There will be a reduced service during part of this period. May I take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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EVENTS

P. 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:

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.

Q. Commemoration Dates for 2018/2019

For planning purposes please note the future dates for Commemorations:

Ardennes

2018 23-26 Mar

Normandy

2018 5-7 Jun

Regimental Commemoration Day - National Memorial Arboretum

2018 23 Jun

Arnhem

74 th	2018	21-23 Sep
75 th	2019	20-22 Sep

R. Diary Dates

23 Jun 18 **PRA AGM**

1-5 Mar 18	1 PARA Reunion	Blackpool	POC: Arthur Mullander
arthur1para@outlook.com		Mob: 07747 155261	

2-5 Mar 18	2 PARA Reunion	Blackpool	POC: Dave Singletary
david.singletary@ntlworld.com		Mob: 07940 576977	

16-19 Mar 18	3 PARA Reunion	Blackpool
3parareunionclub.co.uk		

Details of all these events and others are available on the Web Page at www.theparachutereqimentalassociation.com

Paul Raison

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