



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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2 January 2018

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. Happy New Year
- B. Branch Officials
- C. Social Media
- D. Active Member Branch Survey
- E. Christmas Hampers 2017
- F. Online Membership Form
- G. British Airborne Pilgrimages 2018
- H. Charity Commission News
- I. Welfare Process
- J. Newsletter Articles
- K. PRA Assistant
- L. Pegasus Articles

Events

- M. Pass Out Parades
- N. Future Commemoration Dates 2018/2019
- O. Diary Dates

A. Happy New Year

Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2018. I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and are busy sticking to your New Year Resolutions. You will see from the results so far from Active Membership Survey in this newsletter that numbers are low and far from the previous figures quoted. This was to be expected over the years as we moved from Airborne Divisions to just one Brigade that we have today. Moving the PRA forward in 2018 is our Main Effort, through social media and engagement with Branches. This is the responsibility of all members and we should all do what we can, to encourage new members to join and for old members to engage

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with the Branches. Providing a friendly and active environment is key to the success of the Branches. All events and activities must be family friendly and be advertised, in order to attract members. We have made fantastic progress in 2017 so let's continue the motion in 2018 and beyond.

B. Branch Officials

I would like to personally thank all the Officials who work so hard to keep the Association on its feet. They are the unsung heroes of what we do and should be supported during their tenure. I work very closely with the Executive Committee, who work to ensure that things run smoothly and in the best interests of the Association. The Branch Committee are the unsung heroes and the easy target for complaints and gripes. They too work very hard to keep the Association on its feet and should be applauded for their commitment and dedication. I cannot thank them enough for what they do and their continued support to RHQ PARA.

C. Social Media

Social media is now a part of our daily lives and we must capitalise on this to ensure we reach as many potential members as possible and inform them what is being organised for them. Branches should identify a suitable and willing member who has an interest in IT and the knowledge to assist with this. Liaison with RHQ is vital to keeping the Association Calendar up to date with the correct information and event details. There will be a number of members across the Branches that are able to assist us with the various social media platforms we have (Facebook and website). Please get in touch with the Secretary if you are able to help.

D. Active Member Branch Survey

The results of the Branch survey received so far are attached to this newsletter. It does not make good reading. So far only 37 of the 78 Branches have acknowledged the request to provide their figures. This makes accurate figures impossible to calculate. Using the figures provided so far we have only 1344 active members confirmed. Using these figures as a base, we can see that the overall number of active members is 2833 ($1344 \div 37 = 36 \times 78 = 2833$). 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. All returns to admin@prahq.com at the earliest opportunity please.

E. Christmas Hampers 2017

The Airborne Forces Security Fund (AFSF) has kindly supplied 319 Christmas Hampers and sent cheques to 46 Veterans in care homes this year. The hampers were distributed to proven ex-Airborne soldiers and their dependents in need.

Our Chelsea Pensioners also received a reduced version (Alcohol Removed) which was well received when the Secretary visited them in December 2017.

F. Online Membership Form

Getting new members to sign up on the spot has never been easier. The new online membership form is easy to use and covers all aspects from proof of eligibility of all categories to payment through PayPal. Files and photographs can be uploaded simply and easily. If there are any problems, please ask your Grandchildren.

G. British Airborne Pilgrimages 2018

Tours International are the preferred supplier of Airborne Commemoration Pilgrimages for RHQ PARA and will be providing Pilgrimage Tours in 2018 to the Anniversaries for the Battles of the Ardennes, Normandy and Arnhem.

Free places are available for Airborne Veterans and Widows of WW2 Veterans returning to the theatre in which they fought. This is very kindly funded by the Airborne Forces Security Fund. The following combinations qualify for the places:

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Veteran and Spouse - 2 people
Veteran and Carer - 2 people
Veteran, Spouse and Carer - 3 people
Widow(er) and Carer - 2 people.

Those who qualify and are travelling with Tours International will receive the subsidy through the Tour Operator. Those travelling independently will be required to claim the subsidy through RHQ PARA. Tours International can be contacted on: 01892 515825 or resv@tours-international.com

It is a condition of booking that adequate holiday insurance is obtained and is a condition of booking with Tours International. Everyone attending commemorations abroad must ensure they have a valid E111 Card in addition to valid travel insurance.

H. Charity Commission News

I strongly suggest that you take the time to keep in touch with the Charity Commission News. This 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 organizations 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

Any Branch that requires assistance from the Regimental Welfare Team can call them on: 01206 817102 or see the website for details.

J. 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

K. 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 a regular basis by Lisa Waller, who is also 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.

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L. Pegasus Article Deadline

The deadline for Pegasus articles for the Yearbook 2017 is 31 Jan 2018. All Branches are requested to provide any articles or information by this date in order to meet the expected delivery date in March. Your support is greatly appreciated.

M. Pegasus Journal Subscription

Pegasus is the Regimental Journal of the Parachute Regiment and is published three times a year with two journals and one YEARBOOK.

Subscription Rates:	UK	-	£20
	Europe	-	£26
	Rest of World	-	£26 Overseas Surface Mail (approx. 6-8 weeks delivery) or £32 Airmail (approx. 5 days delivery)

To receive your journals please contact Lisa at: lisa@pegasusjournal.org call 01206 817088 or complete the attached Direct Debit instruction. Online membership is available at: www.pegasusjournal.org

EVENTS

N. 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:

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.

O. 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

P. Diary Dates

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
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16-19 Mar 18 **3 PARA Reunion**

Blackpool

3parareunionclub.co.uk

23 Jun 18 Regimental Commemoration Day and PRA AGM
National Memorial Arboretum

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

Paul Raison

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