



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 September 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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month to the Secretary at [secretary@prahq.com](mailto:secretary@prahq.com)

### Topics:

- A. Commemorative Period
- B. Friend of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Museum
- C. Online Registration
- D. PRA Bank Detail
- E. Last chance to WIN a limited edition Classic 500 Pegasus
- F. Charity Commission News
- G. Executive Committee Meeting
- H. Remembrance Day – 11 November 2018
- I. Regimental Charity Collections and Donations
- J. Welfare Process
- K. Congratulations

### Events

- L. Pass Out Parades
- M. Future Commemoration Dates 2018/2019
- N. Rochdale Branch Arnhem Day Parade
- O. Diary Dates

### A. Commemorative Period

We now enter the second major period of Commemorations with Arnhem taking place over the period 21-23 With the Field of Remembrance, St Lawrence Jewry and Cenotaph Parade in London following on. Many are travelling to join the Commemorations in Arnhem this year but we also know that some are saving themselves

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for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019. It would be great to see any of our members there this year and the outline of main events in Arnhem is included at the end of this newsletter.

## **B. Friend of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Museum**

Many of you will be aware of ParaData – the digital archive of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces run by the Regimental Museum. The archive has grown significantly since it was launched 10 years ago thanks to the hard work of a small team of volunteers and the curatorial staff. The museum recently launched an upgrade to ParaData with enhanced functionality and content.

Alongside our regular content, visitors to [ParaData.org.uk](http://ParaData.org.uk) can now become a Friend of the Museum and gain exclusive access to thousands of pages of documents, interviews, images and video files for a small annual donation of £9.99. This section, which is regularly updated with fresh content, includes Pegasus Journals from 1946 to 2008 for Friends to read and search.

All donations from the 'Friends Scheme' are used to support ParaData's running and development costs, allowing us to keep adding more content and telling your story. Although we have some 60,000 digital records on the archive there is still much work to be done – we can only achieve this with help from PRA members and branches.

Please can you encourage PRA branch members to show their support for preserving the heritage of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces by becoming a Friend of the Museum and ParaData! Its quick and easy to register online.

If you have any queries please email [enquiries@paradata.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@paradata.org.uk)

## **C. Online Registration**

You can now register and keep all your information up to date using our online registration system. This is very easy to complete and will ensure that we have the correct information for all our members. All new members will be required to complete the online registration. Please click on the link and follow the prompts:

<https://mailchi.mp/4af31058726d/prarhq>

If you have any questions please contact the RHQ Data Protection Advisor Lisa Stapleton on Tel: 01206 8170786 or by email: [dpa@supportourparas.org](mailto:dpa@supportourparas.org)

## **D. PRA Bank Details**

The old PRA bank account has now closed and we now use Holts Bank. All Branch Treasurers should cancel all Direct Debits (DD) or Standing Orders (SO) to the old account and set up new payments using the new bank details. It is also important that any cheque sent to RHQ for payment or donation is correctly titled with the account name. The new bank details are as follows:

Account Name:	The Parachute Regimental Association
Bank Name:	Holts
Account Number:	19954846
Sort Code:	16 – 19 – 26

All cheques should be made payable to: The Parachute Regimental Association and should have the Branch name written clearly on the back.

## **E. Last chance to WIN a limited edition Classic 500 Pegasus**

Royal Enfield has partnered with Support Our Paras to offer a chance to win the sole remaining Classic 500 Pegasus – the new limited-edition motorcycle inspired by the RE/WD 125 Flying Flea, Royal Enfield's legendary World War Two motorcycle.

This is a rare chance to own a piece of motorcycle history and a genuine collector's item, with only 1,000 units available globally (190 in UK) – all of which have sold-out. Worth £4,999, the motorcycle

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features the official Airborne Forces insignia alongside an individual serial number, the famous Royal Enfield 'Made Like a Gun' decal and a bespoke set of military-style canvas panniers also bearing the famous Pegasus logo.

To be in with a chance to win this iconic motorcycle, Support Our Paras is selling raffle tickets for just £2, all of which goes to supporting soldiers and families.

To enter the raffle and be in with a chance to win this, the last remaining *Classic 500 Pegasus*, visit [www.raffleplayer.com/supportourparas](http://www.raffleplayer.com/supportourparas) before Wednesday 19 September 2018.

The draw for this *Classic 500 Pegasus* will take place on Friday 21 September 2018, the commemoration of the 74th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem 1944.



## F. 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

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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>

#### **G. 2019 Event Dates**

There are a number of key events taking place in 2019, mainly the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of both Normandy and Arnhem, which will require a large input by RHQ PARA. The organiser of any event that they would like advertised in the Newsletter or on the website should send the details to: [secretary@prahq.com](mailto:secretary@prahq.com)

The information will be used for the newsletter and website, to inform any member of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces of the event.

Event dates are a key factor in the support and assistance this HQ can provide, so please bear this in mind when planning.

#### **H. Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee (EC) will meet on Sat 13 October 18 in Colchester. 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. Please get involved.

#### **I. Remembrance Day – 11 November 2018**

Registration with the Royal British Legion, to march at the Cenotaph in 2018 are now closed. There may be an opportunity to obtain tickets at a later date but this cannot be guaranteed. Anyone wishing to be placed on a reserve list, should the RBL release more tickets, should send the following information to [admin@prahq.com](mailto:admin@prahq.com) :

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

**Please note: This is not guaranteed. The additional allocation of tickets will be determined by the uptake from other Associations and Organisations.**

#### **J. Regimental Charity Collections and Donations**

The Association Charity is extremely grateful for all donations received. All members actively involved in fundraising events and street collections for Branches, do a tremendous amount of work in this area. The Parachute Regimental Association, the smallest of the Charities, is constantly looking for ways of raising funds and rely directly on the support from the Branches. We work directly with the other Regimental Charities as a point of contact for Airborne Veterans seeking assistance. Your support to the Regimental Charities is vital to the direct support of Airborne Veterans now and in the future.

**In August 2018 the welfare office at RHQ PARA dealt with 35 cases and granted £14,320 to ex Airborne members and their families.**

#### **K. 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 money does not come from SSAFA or the RBL.**

The following numbers should be used if you do not know your local SSAFA or RBL office number:

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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.

**Unofficial Welfare Officers acting without the authority of a Branch or RHQ will not be tolerated**

#### **L. Congratulations**

The Gloucester Branch rewarded one of its longest standing members at their meeting on 22 August 2018. Gordon Mitchell was the worthy recipient of the Parachute Regiment Medal and Colonel Commandants Commendation on the 22 August 2018.



#### **EVENTS**

The events calendar on the website is being constantly updated. Here is a selection of forthcoming events:

#### **M. Pass out Parades (POP)**

The next Pass Out Parades are as follows:

800 Normandy Platoon	Friday 19 October 18
801 Tamera Platoon	Friday 16 November 18
802 Arnhem	Friday 14 December 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.

#### **N. Commemoration Dates for 2018/2019**

For planning purposes please note the future dates for Commemorations:

##### **Normandy**

75<sup>th</sup> 2019 03-07 Jun

##### **Arnhem**

74<sup>th</sup> 2018 21-23 Sep

75<sup>th</sup> 2019 20-22 Sep

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## O. Diary Dates

There are still a number of events in the calendar for this year and it would be great to see you all at those. With some major events already in the pipeline, we must ensure that all dates are forecast well ahead of time, so that members can plan ahead. If you have any dates for 2019 please let me know at the earliest opportunity so that they can be included in the 2019. Details of events should be sent when available and updated accordingly.

8 Sep 18	Para2 Club Dinner	Stoke Rochford
9 Sept 18	Arnhem Anniversary Service Organised by the Leicester Branch PRA	Somerby, Leicestershire
16 Sep 18	Chilbolton Memorial Service	Chilbolton, Hants
21-23 Sep 18	Arnhem Commemorations	Arnhem, Netherlands

## Outline of Events

<b>Fri 21</b>		
0930	Stone of Friendship	Hartenstein Museum
1900	Airborne Monument	Airborne Square
<b>Sat 22</b>		
0930-1630	Parachute Drop	Ginkel Heath
1100	Commemoration Service	Ginkel Heath
1500	Polish Memorial	Driel
1700	Engineers Monument	Driel
<b>Sun 23</b>		
0900	Church Service	Old Church (Oude Kerk)
1100	Official Commemoration	CWGC Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery
1600	Air Despatch Memorial	Oosterbeek

30 Sep 18 The Rochdale Branch Arnhem Day Parade St Chads Church, Rochdale.

The form up point will be the Broadfield Park Hotel, Sparrow Hill, OL16 1AF. Those who intend to march should be there at 1245. There will be a short march to the church followed by refreshments at the Ukrainian Club, Mere Street. Families and friends are very welcome.

12 Oct 18	Annual Officers Dinner	London
13 Oct 18	PRA Executive Committee Mtg	Colchester
8 Nov 18	RBL Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
9 Nov 18	St Paul's/St Lawrence Jewry	St Paul's Cathedral/St Lawrence Jewry
11 Nov 18	Remembrance Day	Cenotaph, London/National

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

*Paul Raison*

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