



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 November 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:

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- B. PRA Airborne75 Fundraising 2019
- C. Commemorative Events 2019
- D. Membership Applications
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Events

- L. Pass Out Parades
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- N. Diary Dates

A. Normandy Platoon Pass Out Parade

October 19 2018 saw the latest Platoon (Normandy) pass out from the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) in Catterick. Many of you will know that parachute training was moved to Phase 3 (in unit) and as such following successfully completing P Company, our newest Paratroopers would join their units without their wings. Unfortunately, the Association failed to identify that this meant that they were ineligible to join their own Regimental Association, as they had not jumped from a plane, despite having passed P Company. This was further compounded by the fact that a new process was not put into place to capture our younger members once they had joined their Battalions and gained their wings. The changes to the membership rules have

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alleviated this and so, with the assistance of the Officer Commanding and Company Sergeant Major of PARA Company, we have started this process again. The Secretary had the pleasure of being invited to the parade and was given the opportunity to speak to 26 of the 27 members of The Parachute Regiment and their families parading that day. It was also a great opportunity to meet up with some old friends.

Colonel Giles Timms took the salute, watched by the proud parents and friends of the family. My thanks also to the local Branches of the Association who attended on the day and regularly attend to support these events.



Photos:

Left. Presentation of PRA ID Card to Pte Prabesh Malla.

Left Below. 800 (Normandy) Platoon on parade

Below. Colonel Giles Timms addresses the Family and friends who attended the parade.



The presentation of new PRA ID Cards to all Platoons Passing Out from ITC will now be carried out at their parades.

B. PRA Airborne75 Fundraising 2019

2019 will be a historic year for The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces and there are plans in progress to raise awareness of the Regimental Charities and increase fundraising. In our case, this will be directed towards collecting for The Parachute Regimental Association and Support Our Paras. For those that attended the Annual General Meeting in June this year, you will have heard my plea for support to the Regimental Charities. This has gone some way in highlighting the issue and donations are on the increase. Collections for and on behalf of the Association are vital to the future support we can offer our Airborne Veterans. The outline idea will be to raise £75k throughout our Anniversary year. More details of this will be sent out at a later date.

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C. Commemorative Events 2019

Details of Commemorative events taking place in 2019 are now required. Outline information regarding such events is adequate at the moment, as additional information can be sent at a later date. The key information is the name of the event, date and timings. The organisers name and a contact telephone number and email address are also required. If you can provide an outline for the day, it will allow people to plan their trip more thoroughly. Once received, we will be constantly updating this information on the events page of the website, Facebook page and Monthly Newsletter Diary.

D. Membership Applications

New membership applications are steadily rising. This has been helped by the new online application process: <https://theparachuteregimentalassociation.com/membership/>

This can be easily accessed for all new applications, update information and to renew old ties. Please pass this on to anyone you feel may be in a position to support the Association.

E. New PRA ID Card

The new ID card has now been in place for just under 12 months now and is being issued to all new members. The card is also available to any current member who would like one, at a cost of £3 per card. Payment can be made by cheque, credit card over the phone or by PayPal.

Individual applications will be accepted as well as group applications from Branch Secretaries. Please note that all Honorary Membership Applications for a new ID Card must be done through the Branch Secretary. All we require are the membership details of the applicant, their Airborne Affiliation and a digital/electronic passport style photograph. Applications and photographs can also be sent by post using the form attached to this newsletter. All new ID Card applications should be directed to: admin@prahq.com or Assistant to the Secretary at the address above.

To ensure that Branch Secretaries know what to look for and the information we require when producing this, please note that the new card provides the following details:

Name

Membership Number

Type of Membership (Full/Associate/Affiliate/Armed Forces/Cadet/Social/Honorary)

Airborne Affiliation (Parachute Regiment/4, 10, 15 PARA/7RHA/216 Sigs etc)

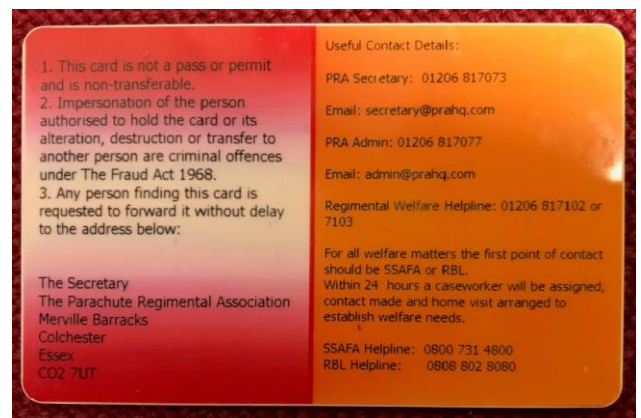
In the case of Honorary Members, the Branch they are linked to will be shown in the Airborne Affiliation section

All applications must state their Airborne Affiliation as this will assist in check with our current database and ensure that the correct type of membership is applied.

All cards are the same colour, irrespective of membership category and are digitally marked for security.



Front



Back

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F. Remembrance Day Tickets 2018

Tickets have been sent out to all those that applied within the timeline. Due to increased security checks, you are advised not to travel and expect to march if you have not registered. Photo ID will be required on the day. Any questions should be directed to: admin@prahq.com

G. Online Registration

The online registration is proving very popular and thank you to all those that have taken the time to submit their details. This is very easy to complete and will ensure that we have the correct information for all our members, as it is very clear that previous records are not accurate. Please click on the link and follow the prompts:

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

All new members will be required to complete the online registration.

H. Christmas Hampers 2018

The Airborne Forces Security Fund (AFSF) has once again confirmed the provision of Christmas Hampers this year to the value of £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. The hamper 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, however, this is not a hard and fast rule, so as to exclude anyone in need. Regional Secretaries have the option to nominate an additional three worthy and eligible named recipients. 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. However, in order to make up the £75 they also receive a slightly reduced hamper. Attached to this newsletter are the covering letter and the application form, 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 Friday 14th December 2018.**

I. Regimental Charity Support to Airborne Veterans

In October 2018 the welfare office at RHQ PARA dealt with 43 cases and granted £18600 to ex Airborne members and their families.

J. Attendance at Funerals

This HQ receives a large number of requests for Association representation at funerals, of 'non-active' Airborne veterans who have sadly passed away. Once checked, this information is routinely passed, as a matter of courtesy, to all Branches of the Association, with as much detail available at the time of notification. While it would be fitting for all such occasions to have representation from members of Airborne Forces, this is not always possible and no guarantees should be made to families.

The provision of bearer parties and buglers cannot be provided.

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.

K. RHQ Christmas Closure

Please note that RHQ PARA will be closed from Fri 22 Dec 18 – Wed 2 Jan 19.

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EVENTS

The events calendar on the website is being constantly updated. If you are organising an event in your area, please let us know so that we can promote the event on the website and Facebook page. Here is a selection of forthcoming events:

L. Pass out Parades (POP)

The scheduled Pass Out Parades are as follows:

801 Arnhem	Fri 14 Dec 18
802 Bruneval	Fri 8 Feb 19
803 Oudna	Fri 19 Apr 19
804 Athens	Fri 21 Jun 19
805 Normandy	Fri 16 Aug 19
806 Tamera	Fri 13 Sep 19
807 Breville	Fri 11 Oct 19
808 Bruneval	Fri 29 Nov 19

The parades take place at Helles Barracks, Catterick. The support that members of the Association give to our recruits is outstanding. Members have been involved in talks to Platoons bearing the name of our most notable conflicts and Battle Honours. Please ensure that you make contact with ITC Catterick prior to attending as cancellations do occur, due non formation or amalgamation.

M. 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. If you have any dates for 2019 please let me know at the earliest opportunity so that they can be added to the diary. Details of events should be sent when available and updated accordingly.

8 Nov 18	RBL Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey	(Ticket Only)
9 Nov 18	St Paul's/St Lawrence Jewry	St Paul's Cathedral/St Lawrence Jewry	

The service at St Pauls is for Regimental Elders and Senior Officers only. The service at St Lawrence Jewry is open to all and will start at 11:30. This will be followed by a reception at the Trading House, which is a short walk from the Church.

11 Nov 18	Remembrance Day	Cenotaph, London/National	(Ticket Only)
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22 Dec 18 - 3 Jan 19 RHQ Closed

28 Feb - 4 Mar 19	1 PARA Reunion	Blackpool	POC: Arthur Mullander
	arthur1para@outlook.com	Mob: 07747 155261	

8 - 10 Mar 19	2 PARA Reunion	Blackpool	POC: Dave Singletary
	david.singletary@ntlworld.com	Mob: 07940 576977	

22 - 24 Mar 19	3 PARA Reunion	Blackpool	
	3parareunionclub.co.uk		

22 Jun 19	PRA Annual General Meeting	National Memorial Arboretum	
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22 Jun 19	Regimental commemoration Service	National Memorial Arboretum	
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3 – 7 Jun 19	Normandy 75 th Commemorations	France	
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6 – 8 Jul 19	ABF Weekend	Aldershot
6 Jul 19	Airborne Statue Unveiling	Aldershot
20 – 22 Sep 19	Arnhem 75 th Commemorations	Holland

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

Paul Raison

PRA Pocket Diary 2019

The Liverpool Branch will be offering Parachute Regimental Association Diaries in the same style as previous years. This will be 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.

Unfortunately, last year they were left with a considerable number of diaries which were not sold, so the total number available will be 1000. Because of this, it will be necessary to increase the delivered price per diary to £3.20, including postage and packing. The minimum order to meet this price is 8 diaries, which provides the best weight to achieve the lowest postage rate for small orders.

Can each Branch Secretary that wishes to order diaries, please complete the information below? Please ensure that the PRA Branch and delivery address for the diaries is completed and a cheque covering the value of the number ordered is attached and sent to the correct address.

To enable the diaries to become 'self-funding' and not the Liverpool Branch paying in advance of delivery. Orders can be e-mailed direct to: michaelwhurst@yahoo.co.uk

Cheques should be made payable to PRA Liverpool sent to my address indicated above. The diaries are expected to be delivered in August, so if branches would wish to take some to Arnhem, in September, would you please note this on your application, so that priority can be given to these orders.

The information required for each order is as follows:

PRA Branch:

Delivery address:

Number of 2019 diaries @ £3.20 Required

Cheque for total amount payable to 'PRA Liverpool':

Orders are to be sent to:

Michael Hurst
 9 Jedburgh Drive
 Melling Mount
 Liverpool
 L33 1EQ

Tel: 0795 642 3679

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