



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 January 2019

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. Events 2019
- C. Online Services
- D. Pegasus Journal
- E. Christmas Hampers 2018 – Last Call
- F. Airborne Veterans
- G. Insurance Renewal/Affiliation Fees
- H. Regimental Charity Collections and Donations
- I. Welfare Process
- J. Applying for Army Records
- K. Regimental Charity Support to Airborne Veterans

Events

- L. Pass Out Parades
- M. Diary Dates

A. Happy New Year

On behalf of Lisa, Julia and Myself I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and welcome you to the first newsletter of 2019. The Association has a lot to look forward to in the forthcoming year, with some major commemorations taking place as well as a number of other key events. A large number of people have booked up for the 75th Anniversary of Normandy and Arnhem already and places are becoming very hard to find for late comers. Funding for veterans is still available through the Airborne Forces Security Fund, so please let them know. There are many other events planned for this significant point in our history so please keep an eye on the Regimental Diary of events for further details.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

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B. Events 2019

Events taking place in your area in 2019 should be forwarded to the Secretary. Outline information is sufficient at the moment and additional information can be sent at a later date. 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.

C. Online Services

Additional Online Services have been added to the website, these include applications for a new ID card and updating your information. For more information please check out the membership page at:

<https://theparachuteregimentalassociation.com/membership/>

D. Pegasus Journal

The Winter edition of the Pegasus Journal has been unexpectedly delayed. Unfortunately, it will not be available until mid-January 2019. Although not a responsibility of the PRA, the majority of the subscribers are members of the Association. The Editor and Manager would like us to pass on their apologies for the late delivery.

E. Christmas Hampers 2018

Christmas hampers were sent out to 340 veterans and their dependants this year. Our thanks go to the trustees of the Airborne Forces Security Fund.

As part of this, our 9 Chelsea Pensioners also received a reduced version which was well received when the Secretary visited them in December 2018.

F. Airborne Veterans

There have been a number of cases recently where previously unknown Airborne Veterans have come to light. It is absolutely vital that we get in touch with all our veterans to ensure that we do not lose touch with those who are involved in more recent conflicts. Please encourage all to complete the online registration form at: <https://mailchi.mp/4af31058726d/prarhq>

G. Insurance Renewal/Affiliation Fees

The policy for the renewal of the annual PRA Insurance is now under review has now been completed and is due to be renewed in April 2019. Any suggested amendments to the policy should be submitted to your Regional Secretary. The annual Affiliation Fee remains at £50. Payment can be made by cheque payable to: The Parachute Regimental Association or by BACS transfer to: Sort Code 16-19- 26, Acct No 19954846. Please ensure you use your Branch name as a payment reference so that we can track payments.

H. Regimental Charity Collections and Donations

The Association Charity is extremely grateful for all donations received. All members actively involved in coordinating fundraising events and street collections for Branches do a tremendous amount of work in this area. The Parachute Regimental Association, Support our PARAs and Airborne Forces Security Fund charities work directly with organisations such as SSAFA and the RBL, who are mainly there as a point of contact for Airborne Veterans seeking assistance and as such do not provide funding for individual requirements. Your support to the Regimental Charities is vital to the direct support of Airborne Veterans now and in the future.

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

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

J. Applying for Army Records

Please note that RHQ PARA does not have the capability to check the eligibility of any Airborne Veteran. As with applications to join the Association, it is up to the applicant to provide evidence of their Military Service. Anyone who is not in possession of their Military Records can apply to the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow at:

Army Personnel Centre
Disclosures 2
Mail point 535
Kentigern House
65 Brown Street
Glasgow
G2 8EX

apc-sp-disclosures2@mod.uk

or apply online at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records>

K. Regimental Charity Support to Airborne Veterans

In November 2018 the welfare office at RHQ PARA granted £46781.62 to ex Airborne members and their families. This figure includes money spent on Christmas Hampers.

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.

L. Pass out Parades (POP)

The scheduled Pass Out Parades are as follows:

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. 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.

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	

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22 - 24 Mar 19	3 PARA Reunion 3parareunionclub.co.uk	Blackpool
22 Jun 19	PRA Annual General Meeting	National Memorial Arboretum
22 Jun 19	Regimental commemoration Service	National Memorial Arboretum
3 – 7 Jun 19	Normandy 75 th Commemorations	France
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

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