



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

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT
MERVILLE BARRACKS
CIRCULAR ROAD SOUTH
COLCHESTER
ESSEX
CO2 7UT

TEL: 01206 817073

MIL: 94660 7073

Email: secretary@prahq.com

www.theparachuteregimentalassociation.com

1 February 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. Welcome Back
- B. Membership Issues
- C. Applications for New ID Cards
- D. Welfare Process
- E. Affiliation Fees 2019
- F. Insurance Renewal
- G. Airborne Veteran Centenarians
- H. Insurance Renewal/Affiliation Fees
- I. Regimental Charity Collections and Donations
- J. Applying for Army Records
- K. Regimental Charity Support to Airborne Veterans
- L. Standard Bearer Sash

Events

- M. PRA Gala Dinner
- N. Pass Out Parades
- O. Diary Dates

A. RHQ News

I am happy to report that Julia has now returned from maternity leave and is busy catching up on Branch business. I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Lisa Waller for her hard work over the last 12 months by covering the administration for the Association. It has been a busy month so far and the diary is filling up quickly. Please see the attachment to this newsletter, which is the message from the Colonel Commandant in regards to the recent PARAS – Men of War series. There have been many comments, both good and bad on social media. The initial impact on recruiting is very promising and only time will tell.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

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B. Membership Issues

There have been a number of incidents recently of members who have passed away and have subsequently been identified as not eligible to be members of the Association. There has also been a serious case of an individual who claimed to have an Airborne past, which was only brought to light when his family applied for assistance through the Association after his death. They were clearly distressed after this revelation and left to pick up the pieces before and after the funeral. The completion of the Branch Member Lists is a key part to ensuring that our records are up to date and accurate. All Branch Members should be members of the Association and as such provide evidence of their service with The Parachute Regiment or Airborne Forces. This is the only way to guarantee their authenticity and eligibility to join. All Branch Secretaries are requested to review their members list and ensure that anyone who has not applied for membership does so at the earliest opportunity. No application for membership should be taken at face value and it is up to the applicant to provide evidence of their service. New ID cards will not be issued to Non Members of the Association.

C. Applications for New ID Cards

There has been an influx of applications for the new ID card. Please ensure that you complete the latest form that is in use as we had to amend the original. The payment of £3 can be made by PayPal, Cheque or over the telephone to Julia. If anyone has any questions, please give us a call on 01206 817077.

D. Welfare Process

There have been two recent cases of Branches providing financial assistance to welfare cases. They subsequently asked if the money could be repaid. The Regimental Welfare Team at RHQ is ready to help, at short notice anyone, who requires assistance.

The system is very clear and available 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 (unlike others) 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 (Laura) or 01206 817103 (Sue). See the website for further details.

E. Affiliation Fees 2019

Thank you to all those that have forwarded their affiliation fees to Julia for 2019. Branches that may be having some difficulty raising this sum are requested to make representation to their 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.

Affiliation - A Reminder of the Benefits

1. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) permission to use the Regimental Logo on Branch Standards and letterheads.
2. Full Public Liability Insurance and Branch Standard Insurance (new certificate issued in Apr 19).
3. Access to Regimental support for organised functions, i.e. The Band, RDFFT, Pony Mascot, associated Regimental assets (subject to availability).

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4. Support from the National Executive Committee and RHQ PRA on constitutional and branch management and membership matters.
5. The ability to fundraise in support of the Branch, its members and branch activities.
6. Receive Monthly Branch Newsletters and other correspondence.

F. Insurance Renewal

The policy for the renewal of the annual PRA Insurance is now under review, prior to its planned renewal in April 2019. Any suggested amendments to the policy should be submitted to your Regional Secretary.

G. Airborne Veteran Centenarians

If anyone is aware of any of our veterans who are approaching their 100th birthday, we would be interested to hear about them.

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.

K. Regimental Charity Support to Airborne Veterans

In December 2018 the welfare office at RHQ PARA granted £23635 to 24 ex Airborne members and their families.

L. Standard Bearer Sash

If anyone has the details of where we can get a Standards Bearers Sash made, could you please let me know? There are a number of providers out there and we are looking for recommendations.

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.

M. PRA Gala Dinner

The PRA will hold a Gala Dinner on the evening of Saturday 22 June 2019. This event will follow the Regimental Commemoration Service at the NMA. The hotel has two hundred rooms and we have provisionally requested that the hotel hold rooms to accommodate 200 people, which is the maximum that can be catered for at the Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening.

The Bosworth Hall Hotel is located on the edge of the small historic market town of Market Bosworth and is mainly associated with the famous battle that took place a few miles away in 1485, where Richard III, who was the last king of England, killed in battle. The hotel is surrounded by beautiful gardens and private parklands, yet only a five-minute walk into the town. For further information on the hotel please look at their website:

<https://www.britanniahotels.com/hotels/bosworth-hall-hotel-spa>

Venue

The Market Bosworth Hall Hotel & Spa. The Park, Market Bosworth, Warwickshire CV13 0LP.

This is a one, two, or three-night package

Friday

21 June Single occupancy Dinner, B&B. £70, double/twin occupancy £85.

Saturday

22 June Single occupancy B&B £60, double/twin occupancy £75 (Gala Dinner Night) £35

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Sunday

23 June Single occupancy Dinner, B&B £60, double/twin occupancy £75

Room Bookings

You can book your accommodation from the 1st January 2019 by phoning central reservations on 0161 9239170, quoting our reference PARA210619. You will need to give your card details when booking your room but no money will be taken from your account until you book out on the day of departure. If you need to cancel you can do so up to forty-eight hours before the event, but failure to do so will result in full payment being taken from your account.

Cost

The cost of the dinner is £35 per person and includes Starter, Main, Dessert, Cheese Board, wine with the meal and entertainment to suit all. Please make cheques payable to Bedworth PRA, addressed to Mr John Carey, 45 Salters Lane, Tamworth, Staffs, B79 8BH. No refunds for the dinner can be made after 1st May 2019. Remember this will be on a first-come first-served basis.

N. 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.

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. 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.singletery@ntlworld.com	Mob: 07940 576977	
22 - 24 Mar 19	3 PARA Reunion	Blackpool	
	3parareunionclub.co.uk		
24 Mar 19	Op VARSITY Act of Remembrance	Marks Hall, Earls Colne	

The Service starts at 1050 hrs. Please allow time as it is some distance from the entrance. Lunch/refreshments will be available in the tea room afterwards.

22 Jun 19	PRA Annual General Meeting	National Memorial Arboretum
22 Jun 19	Regimental commemoration Service	National Memorial Arboretum

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3 – 7 Jun 19	Normandy 75 th Commemorations	France
6 – 8 Jul 19	ABF Weekend	Aldershot
6 Jul 19	Airborne Statue Unveiling	Aldershot
7 Sep 19	10 th Bn Unveiling	Leicester
7 Sep 19	Op BOLD GUARD (Kiel Canal)	Glasgow
8 Sep 19	Op MARKET GARDEN Commemoration	Somerby
20 – 22 Sep 19	Arnhem 75 th Commemorations	Holland

Details of all these events and others are available on the Web Page at
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Paul Raison

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