



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 May 2019

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

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- A. Airborne Forces Security Fund Support
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A. Airborne Forces Security Fund Support

At a recent meeting of the Airborne Forces Security Fund (AFSF) the trustees very kindly agreed to financially support a number of PRA events in 2019. This is fantastic news for the Association and will allow some events to continue in the future. The AFSF also agreed to support the 12 Airborne Veterans who wished to travel to the

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Netherlands for the Dutch Liberation celebrations. Again, this is great news and is in addition to the Wandeltocht March that takes place in the first week in September, that they agreed to support for the first time in 2018. I would personally like to thank the trustees of the AFSF for supporting us in this way.

B. Paddy Doyle World Record Attempt

On the 11th May 2019, at Fillongley Village Social Club, Paddy Doyle will be attempting his 650th Fitness Endurance Challenge and World Record.

Paddy left the Parachute Regiment in 1986 and since then has achieved amazing feats of endurance and fitness, leading him in 2009 to be crowned by the Guinness Book of World Records as the "World Fitness Endurance Champion".

Paddy is a legend in the world of endurance and fitness and has been and continues to be a fine ambassador for the Parachute Regiment and the PRA.

Paddy and the Coventry branch welcome any support from other branches and friends, in order to cheer him on and celebrate this incredible milestone. The event is not ticketed but please arrive at the club at approximately 1245hrs or before to ensure you do not miss the start.

Fillongley Village Social Club is located at:
Ousterne Lane, Fillongley, Coventry CV7 8EU

If you require any further information please contact Coventry branch

C. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018. The RHQ Privacy Notice is available on the website, along with a personal Information Update Form. The new regulations set out clear direction on how we should be managing the information we hold on our members and clearly defining how we will store and use it. Each Branch must comply with the policy and ensure that they are protecting the information they hold. A Branch version of the Privacy Notice is now available online, as well as some handy Do's & Don'ts. The Branch version can be adapted to suit your Branch and provide adequate information for present and future members. If you have any questions please contact the RHQ Data Protection Advisor Lisa Stapleton on Tel: 01206 8170786 or by email: dpa@supportourparas.org

D. Duxford Museum

On 4th and 5th June 2019, over 30 Dakota aircraft will be assembling at IWM Duxford, also home to your regimental museum - Airborne Assault.

They would like to invite any Normandy airborne veterans who are not attending the commemorations in Normandy to come to Duxford. They would also like to interview as many as they can to ensure their histories are recorded.

Along with the Dakotas, they are set to stage the largest exhibition of airborne equipment since the Second World War - including Horsa Glider, tetrarch tank, jeeps, bikes, and other kit. It will be a great day out for all the family and members of Airborne Forces.

If you are aware of any Normandy veterans in your branches, could you please let them know at: museumcurator@paradata.org.uk They will then discuss the day with you and if they would like to come to Duxford and be part of the UK based commemorations.

E. Use of Personal Bank Accounts

Branch Treasurers are reminded that under Rule 3 of the Branch Charity Guide they should only use a PRA bank account for Branch activity. NEVER bank funds into your personal account or any non-PRA bank account. If you do you will be putting yourself in a very unsavoury position.

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F. Ride of Respect

Paul Moore, a member of the Teeside Branch is planning a Ride of Respect in July. This will coincide and link into the unveiling of the Airborne Soldier in Aldershot on Saturday 6 July 2019. He is hoping to meet up with as many PRA Branches as possible on route between 01-05 July.

There is a Facebook page dedicated to the event which he would be grateful that you could share with the families and veterans, so that they can keep updated of his progress. It also provides an easy method of getting in contact with them as they ride, or indeed, as they prepare for the event. The link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/3-PARA-Fallen-Ride-of-Respect-01-05-July-2019-369572600436147>

Paul would appreciate any support that Branches of the Association so please take a look at the attached document to see the schedule of dates and timings. He is particularly interested in hearing from Branches in the area they are visiting by providing a guide who knows the location of the grave. This will save a considerable amount of time, as due to the distances involved, they have only been able to allocate 30 minutes at each location. Please do not hesitate to contact Paul for further details. The list of locations is attached.

Thank you to everyone who have given support to this venture in words of encouragement, donations to SAMA via the Just Giving Page or practical help and advice. Your help would be very much appreciated.

G. Bolton Branch

William Lomax, the Chairman of the Bolton Branch recently presented WW2 Arnhem veteran Wilf Oldham (98) with a hip flask ready for his trip to Arnhem this year. The flask is branded with the 75th anniversary emblem of Arnhem Bridge. Wilf is one of the loyal members of the Bolton Branch and attends every meeting. Wilf takes great pleasure in talking to schools in the area about his exploits.



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Branch Treasurer, Norman Ward also presented Wilf Oldham & John Maude (a young 94-year-old) with a cap embroidered with their own regiment. In Wilf Oldham's case it is 1st Air landing Brigade and John Maude has 13th Battalion Parachute Regiment. They were both very grateful for the gifts.

H. Welfare Process

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 individual or Branch that requires assistance from the Regimental Welfare Team can call them on: 01206 817102 (Laura) or 01206 817103 (Sue). All information shared is confidential. See the website for further details.

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I. Certificate of Insurance – Public Liability

The new policy is now in place for 2019-2020, with all changes that were notified to us. Thank you to all those that have forwarded their affiliation fees to Julia. The annual Affiliation Fee remains at £50 this year. 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.

Please remember that the insurance provides cover for your Branch Standard and all Accoutrements up to £1000 and the Certificate of Third Part Liability covers you for all Branch collections and public events. The certificate will not be issued to any Branch that has not paid the Affiliation Fee for 2019-2020.

J. Branch Members Lists

Thank you to all those that have responded to the Branch Members lists that were sent out last month. We have only received approximately 20 back so far and look forward to seeing the remainder at the earliest opportunity.

We are mandated under new regulations to ensure that the data we hold at RHQ PARA is correct and up to date. The results so far have highlighted a number of issues regarding this, including members that have passed away. It is important that Branch Secretaries return them as soon as they are complete.

If anyone has any problems completing the lists sent out, please do not hesitate to contact Julia: Tel: 01206 817077.

K. Regimental Charity Support to Airborne Veterans

In April 2019 the welfare office at RHQ PARA granted just over £23000 to 33 ex Airborne members and their families. Support for the Regimental Charities is vital to this continuing. Support Our Paras, the Airborne Forces Security Fund and The Parachute Regimental Association are the ONLY charities that guarantee their money will go to support our Airborne Veterans.

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 for 2019 are as follows:

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 CSM on ITC-2ITBPARACSM@mod.gov.uk prior to attending as cancellations do occur, due to non-formation or amalgamation.

M. 4 PARA Reunion

This year's 4 PARA Reunion will take place on Saturday 11 May 2019. Details as follows:

12:00 for 13:00 start. Dress Smart Casual

Location:

Water Lane Boat House
Canal Wharf
LEEDS City centre
LS11 5PS

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2 minutes from the main train station. For more information, please contact:

Les Ratcliffe 07711 853103

Dave Macaulay 07731 824247

N. Airborne Forces Day South 2019

Airborne Forces Day South this year will be incorporated with Armed Forces Day under the auspices of Portsmouth City Council. Traditionally this event has also incorporated a 10 Para Reunion. The event will no longer be on Southsea Common but will now take place in the Portsmouth Historical Dockyard (PHD). There will be a number of displays and a reserved area within the beer tent for the Airborne fraternity. There will be a parade and all Airborne past and present are invited.

The parade will be formed of three elements Regular Soldiers, Veterans and Airborne and will take place within the PHD. As the Portsmouth Historical Dockyard forms part of a restricted area there are security implications therefore anyone wishing to attend as part of the Veterans or the Airborne elements will need to contact the following with PRA or Service Number, Name and former unit please, together with the name(s) of additional guests.

Veterans – Keith Allcock k_allcock@sky.com

Airborne – Spike Redwood davidredwood312@btinternet.com

Car parking will be available on Southsea Common and a free all day bus service will be available to ferry people to and from PHD.

O. Red Devils Reunion

2019 marks the 55th anniversary since the formation of the regimental free fall team, the Red Devils, in 1964. Former team member Jackie Smith is organising a reunion for serving and former team members (including guest jumpers, pilots and wives/partners) at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool (same location as the very successful reunion in 2014) over the weekend of 22/23 November 2019. It will take the form of an informal fork buffet supper on the Friday evening and a gala dinner on the Saturday.

For further details please contact Jackie at jackie.smith1@ntlworld.com Tel: 01980-594853 or the Imperial Hotel at reservations@imperialhotelblackpool.co.uk Tel: 01253-623971.

P. Lincoln Branch Arnhem 75 Event

The Lincoln Branch have organised an event to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem on Sunday 18 August 2019 at Woodall Spa, Lincolnshire. Three Battalions who endeavoured to take the bridge at Arnhem were based and trained at Woodall Spa. The outline of the programme is as follows:

09.00 Veterans and their families gather at the Teahouse in the Woods and the Conservative club. There will be Marquees in the grounds of the Golf hotel open to the public.

10.00 Veterans move to the muster point for the march to St Peter's church.

10.30 March to St Peter's Church. Standards would be welcome. Salute taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire & Dignitaries outside The Book Fayre.

11.00 Service of Dedication for the New Window.

12.00 Walk from Church to the Golf Hotel and/or the EGU Conference Centre for invited Veteran lunch.

12.15 Flypast by a Lancaster from The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

13.00 Lunch for a maximum of 250 guests in the EGU Conference Centre and the Golf hotel.

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14.30 Free Concert in Jubilee Park featuring Coningsby Military Wives Choir, Sparkle and other musical attractions.

15.00 Free film showing of "Theirs is the Glory" at the Kinema in the Woods

Q. Friends of the Tenth – Somerby

The Chairman of the Leicester PRA, Mr John Gibbard would like to invite all Branches and members to the unveiling of the Memorial to The 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and to the 75th Commemoration at Somerby, in Leicestershire.

The unveiling takes place on Saturday 7th September 2019 followed by the annual Parade and Service in Somerby on Sunday 8th September. All Branches and all PRA members are very welcome.

They would especially like as many Branch Standard Bearers as possible to join us for both days.

To register for this event please click on the link to their website.

<https://friendsofthetenth.co.uk/unveiling-ceremony/>

More information is available on the website or please email:

unveiling@friendsofthetenth.co.uk

R. Diary Dates

There are a large number of events in the calendar for this year and it would be great to see you all at some of these. 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 May 19	VE Day Commemoration	St Martins Church, Bladen, OX20 1RS
11 May 19	4 Para Reunion	Leeds
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 Commemorations	France
22 Jun 19	PRA Gala Dinner	Bosworth Hall, CV13 0LP
6 – 8 Jul 19	ABF Weekend	Aldershot
6 Jul 19	Airborne Statue Unveiling	Aldershot
18 Aug 19	Lincoln Branch Arnhem 75 Event	Woodall Spa
7 Sep 19	10 th Bn Memorial Unveiling	Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire
7 Sep 19	Op BOLD GUARD (Kiel Canal)	Glasgow
8 Sep 19	Arnhem 75 Commemoration	Somerby
8 Sep 19	Arnhem 75 th Service	All Saints Church, Down Ampney

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14 Sep 19

NIVA Service

National Memorial Arboretum

20 – 22 Sep 19

Arnhem 75 Commemorations

Netherlands

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

Paul Raison

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