



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

### Topics:

- A. RHQ Notice
- B. Brass Pegasus for Branch Standards
- C. Certificate of Insurance – Public Liability
- D. Northampton Branch
- E. Bladen VE Day
- F. Use of Personal Bank Accounts
- G. Charity Commission News
- H. Ride of Respect
- I. Welfare Process
- J. Certificate of Insurance – Public Liability
- K. Regimental Charity Support to Airborne Veterans
- L. Bolton Branch

### Events

- M. Pass Out Parades
- N. Airborne Forces Day South 2019
- O. Red Devils Reunion
- P. Lincoln Branch Arnhem 75 Event
- Q. Diary Dates

### A. RHQ Notice

Due to our commitment and responsibilities for Normandy this newsletter will be quite short and repetitive from last month. Please take some time to remember all those that paid the ultimate price during this period 75 years ago. We Will Remember Them.

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## **B. Brass Pegasus for Branch Standards**

In 2017 one of our members (Mike Harrison) managed to secure the services of a foundry that could produce a Brass to adorn the top of the Branch Standards. A number of Branches have since asked for them. Mike has very kindly agreed to take this on again and the foundry has agreed to make a new batch if required. The cost of the Brass Pegasus (last time) was £105. The cost this year will be published as soon as we know it. If any Branch would like to purchase a Brass Pegasus for their Standard then please let me by email at [secretary@prahq.com](mailto:secretary@prahq.com) Photographs of the finished product will be available shortly.

## **C. 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.

## **D. Northamptonshire Branch**

After discovering there were no remaining PRA Branches in the whole county, following the closures of the Kettering and Northampton Branches, Tom Blakey decided to establish the Northamptonshire Branch of the PRA, based in Wellingborough.

After gauging interest and communication with RHQ, the first meeting was held in March, with 14 members in attendance. The second meeting was held in May, with 20 members in attendance. The Branch is expanding, with 45 members on the books to date. Members are from a varied selection of units and cap badges across the Brigade, and are of a wide variation of ages and experience, from Suez and Borneo veterans, to current serving soldiers.

The Branch intends to take an active part in all Regimental events and will represent the Regiment and Airborne Forces where possible, including Normandy, Arnhem and Remembrance Sunday. If any serving or ex Para/ABF would like to join the Branch, contact Tom via the Facebook Northamptonshire Branch PRA group, or send him an email at [northantspra@hotmail.com](mailto:northantspra@hotmail.com).



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## E. Bladen VE Day

On the 8 May 2019, members of the Midlands Region PRA & Standards attended the annual VE Day commemoration service at St Martins Parish church Bladon, Oxfordshire. They were joined by members of Sir Winston Churchill's family and serving members of the Parachute Flight RAF Brize Norton.

Both Sir Winston's Daughter & Granddaughters thank all those present for their continued support to this event and although a little wet, things went well with the indoor service and outdoor wreath laying by the Military PRA and representatives from the Swedish, Norwegian and Danish Embassies.



## F. 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.

## G. 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 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>

## H. 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.

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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.

#### **I. 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.

#### **J. Certificate of Insurance – Public Liability**

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#### **K. Regimental Charity Support to Airborne Veterans**

In April 2019 the welfare office at RHQ PARA granted just over £23000 to 3 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.

#### **L. Bolton Branch**

David Sharkey at the Bolton Branch, took Easter to Harold Monkhouse this year as Harold is still a bit under the weather after recent illness. David was joined by members of Bolton PRA including Wilf Oldham, Norman Ward, William Lomax, Frank Robinson, Kevin Heselwood, Ron Plummer and John Maude. Also with them were 20

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singers and dancers (thanks to the Taylor Theatre Academy). The day consisted of a meal followed by an afternoon of singing and the odd dance thanks to John Maude (94), which kept them all entertained. A great afternoon was had by all and it was rounded off with an Easter egg from Bolton PRA.



## 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. 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-2ITBPACSM@mod.gov.uk](mailto:ITC-2ITBPACSM@mod.gov.uk) prior to attending as cancellations do occur, due to non-formation or amalgamation.

### 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).

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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](mailto:k_allcock@sky.com)

Airborne – Spike Redwood [davidredwood312@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:jackie.smith1@ntlworld.com) Tel: 01980-594853 or the Imperial Hotel at [reservations@imperialhotelblackpool.co.uk](mailto:reservations@imperialhotelblackpool.co.uk) Tel: 01253-623971.

#### **P. Lincoln Branch Arnhem 75 Event**

The Lincoln Branch have organised an event to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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## Q. 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.

3 – 7 Jun 19	Normandy 75 Commemorations	France
22 Jun 19	PRA Annual General Meeting	National Memorial Arboretum
22 Jun 19	Regimental commemoration Service	National Memorial Arboretum
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 <sup>th</sup> Bn Unveiling	Leicester
7 Sep 19	Op BOLD GUARD (Kiel Canal)	Glasgow
8 Sep 19	Arnhem 75 Commemoration	Somerby
8 Sep 19	Arnhem 75 <sup>th</sup> Service	All Saints Church, Down Ampney
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](http://www.theparachuteregimentalassociation.com)

*Paul Raison*

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