



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

## NEWSLETTER 1 November 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. Regional Secretaries Vacancies
- B. Affiliation Fees
- C. Insurance Renewal
- D. Arnhem 75 Commemoration Coin
- E. Ardennes/Rhine Crossing 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2020
- F. PRA Diaries
- G. Bolton Branch News
- H. Christmas Hampers 2019
- I. Welfare Process
- J. Brass Pegasus for Standards

### Events

- K. Pass Out Parades
- L. Diary Dates

### A. Regional Secretary Vacancies

Due to personal circumstances, a number of vacancies for Regional Secretaries for The Parachute Regimental Association now exist. The purpose of the Regional Management Committee is to manage the affairs of each Region. This is achieved by:

- 1) Holding regular Regional Management Committee meetings
- 2) Offering support and advice to branches on Constitutional and Charitable matters.
- 3) Coordinate and plan regional events.
- 4) Providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the region.

Vacancies exist in the following Regions:

- 1) South East
- 2) London

Anyone who is interested in filling one of these appointments is kindly asked to notify the Secretary. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence. The applicant must be a PRA member and ideally be actively involved with one of the Branches. Once any nominations have been received the applicants will be passed to the Branches within the Region for discussion. For further details please contact the Secretary on: [secretary@prahq.com](mailto:secretary@prahq.com) or 01206 817073.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

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## **B. 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).
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.

## **C. Insurance Renewal**

The policy for the renewal of the annual PRA Insurance is now under review, prior to its planned renewal in April 2020. This is due to the rising cost of replacement of a Branch Standard. This may incur additional costs to Branches in future years. Any suggested amendments to the policy should be submitted to your Regional Secretary.

## **D. Arnhem 75 Commemoration Coin**

There are a small number of coins still available from RHQ PARA and anyone wishing to purchase one should email Julia on: [admin@prahq.com](mailto:admin@prahq.com) or call on 01206 817077.

## **E. Ardennes/Rhine Crossing 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2020**

After a very successful 75<sup>th</sup> Commemoration period for Normandy and Arnhem in 2019, Regimental Headquarters of The Parachute Regiment (RHQ PARA) is now looking ahead to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ardennes and Rhine Crossing.

The commemorations will take place over the period 20-26 March 2020 and is broken down into stages to allow people to choose which particular parts they wish to attend. The breakdown is as follows:

### **Ardennes and Rhine Crossing 75th**

20 to 26 March 2020 - 7 days/6 nights

### **Ardennes 75th**

20 to 23 March 2020 - 4 days/3 nights

### **Rhine Crossing 75th**

23 to 26 March 2020 – 4 days/3 nights

Tours International are the usual supplier of Airborne Commemoration Pilgrimages for RHQ PARA. The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans are also planning to transport veterans during this time.

Places are available for Airborne Veterans of WW2 and Widows of WW2 Veterans returning to the theatre in which they fought, funded by the Airborne Forces Security Fund. The following qualify for the places:

Veteran and Spouse - 2 people  
Veteran and Carer - 2 people

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Veteran, Spouse and Carer - 3 people  
Widow(er) and Carer - 2 people.

Those who qualify and are travelling with Tours International, will receive the subsidy through the Tour Operator. Those travelling independently will be required to claim the subsidy through RHQ PARA by contacting Gwen Appleton on 01206 81 7079 or [syfund@parachute-regiment.com](mailto:syfund@parachute-regiment.com) Tours International can be contacted on: 01892 515825 or [resv@tours-international.com](mailto:resv@tours-international.com)

#### **F. Parachute Regimental Association Diaries**

The Parachute Regimental Association Diaries are available for 2020. The style of the diary is the same as last year with a Red flash on the front and back cover with the Regimental Badge overlaying the Pegasus and Parachute Regimental Association printed in silver with an organiser diary and notepad.

The delivered price, per diary including postage and packing will be £3.20 with a minimum order to meet this price of 8 diaries. This is excellent value for money.

Can I please ask all Branches and individuals to promote this to their members as a priority? To order please contact: Michael Hurst Tel: 0151 547 4776 Email: [michaelwhurst@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaelwhurst@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **G. Bolton Branch News**

Frank Robinson (Welfare office) took his merry men from the Bolton Branch to celebrate Harold Moolhouse 93 and Ron Plummer's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The third person in the photograph is Jonny Maude soon to be 94 years young. With a combined age of 279 they enjoined an afternoon of good food and entertainment, with music from the 40s 50s and 60s. Well done to Frank and his team.



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## H. Christmas Hampers 2019

The Airborne Forces Security Fund (AFSF) has once again confirmed the provision of Christmas Hampers this year to the value of £85. 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 £85 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 £85 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 13th December 2019.**

## I. Welfare Process

The Regimental Welfare Team at RHQ is ready to help, at short notice anyone, who requires assistance. In October they made 38 grants totalling £20,344.97.

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.

## 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.

## J. Brass Pegasus for Standards

The new consignment of Brass Pegasus and Finials for Branch Standards are in the final stages of production. Due to the number that we had to order there are three Brass Pegasus and three Finials available if any Branch would like to purchase one. The cost is £160 for the Brass Pegasus and Finial, including postage. Please contact the Secretary for further details. My thanks again to Mike Harrison for his hard work.

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## K. Pass out Parades (POP)

The scheduled Pass Out Parades for 2019/2020 are as follows:

808 Bruneval	Fri 29 Nov 19
809 Oudna	Fri 14 Feb 20
810 Arnhem	Fri 17 Apr 20
811 Normandy	Fri 19 Jun 20
812 Breville	Fri 7 Aug 20
813 Bruneval	Fri 9 Oct 20

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 at:

[John.Willis443@mod.gov.uk](mailto:John.Willis443@mod.gov.uk) prior to attending as cancellations do occur, due to non-formation or amalgamation.

## L. Diary Dates

There are a few 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 2020 please let me know at the earliest opportunity so that they can be added to the diary. Full details of events should be sent when available and updated accordingly.

### 2019

7 Nov 19	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
8 Nov 19	St Pauls/St Lawrence Jewry	London
10 Nov 19	Remembrance Day	Cenotaph, Whitehall
22 Nov 19	Red Devils Reunion	Blackpool

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.

### 2020

6 - 8 Mar 20	<b>2 PARA Reunion</b>	Blackpool	POC: Dave Singletary
	<a href="mailto:david.singletary@ntlworld.com">david.singletary@ntlworld.com</a>	Mob: 07940 576977	
12 - 16 Mar 20	<b>1 PARA Reunion</b>	Blackpool	POC: Arthur Mullander
	<a href="mailto:arthur1para@outlook.com">arthur1para@outlook.com</a>	Mob: 07747 155261	
20 - 22 Mar 20	<b>3 PARA Reunion</b>	Blackpool	
	<a href="http://3parareunionclub.co.uk">3parareunionclub.co.uk</a>		
20-26 Mar 20	Ardennes/Rhine Crossing	France, Belgium, Germany	
20 - 23 Mar 20	Ardennes		
23 - 26 Mar 20	Rhine Crossing		
24 Mar 20	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.

9 May 20                      4 PARA Reunion                      Leeds  
POC: Les Ratcliffe, 07711 853103 or Dave Macaulay, 07731 824247

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16 May 20	PARAS 10	Colchester
20 Jun 20	PRA Annual General Meeting	National Memorial Arboretum
20 Jun 20	Regimental commemoration Service	National Memorial Arboretum

**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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