



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 February 2020

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. Newsletter Changes
- B. Affiliation Fees 2020
- C. Regimental Charity Collections and Donations
- D. Applying for Army Records
- E. Regimental Commemoration Day – 20 June 2020
- F. PRA Commemoration Dinner
- G. Welfare Process
- H. Northern Ireland Legacy Investigations Update
- I. Arnhem 75 Commemoration Coin

Events

- J. Pass Out Parades
- K. Diary Dates

A. Newsletter Changes

The format of the Monthly Newsletter will shortly change. The current version has become outdated and will be replaced by a four-page version. The new newsletter will still be able to be printed and will contain all the latest information from RHQ as well as a limited number of articles from Branches. We are hoping to start the new version in March or April 20.

B. Affiliation Fees 2020

Thank you to all those that have forwarded their affiliation fees to Julia for 2020. 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. This is despite the rising cost of replacing Branch Standards. A full review is under way and this cost may increase in the future.

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).

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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.

It is requested that all Affiliation Fees are paid NLT 31 March 2020.

C. 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 and the new Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity (PRAFC) 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.

D. 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>

E. Regimental Commemoration Day – 20 June 2020

Details for the Regimental Commemoration Day are attached to this newsletter. Changes to the format of the meal have allowed us to cater for more people in 2020 due to popular demand. This is a fantastic opportunity to organise a Branch trip and to meet up with old comrades.

The PRA AGM will be held on the morning of the same day.

F. PRA Commemoration Dinner

Last year we held our first PRA Commemoration Dinner on the Saturday evening following the Regimental Commemoration Day. This was a great success and therefore we have decided to do it again this year at the Bosworth Hall Hotel. Tickets for the dinner are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

The dinner allows those that have travelled some distance to prolong the weekend with the informal reception on the Friday and the dinner on the Saturday evening.

The Colonel Commandant, Regimental Lt Colonel, National Secretary, Regional Secretaries, plus some of the RHQ team will be attending. This will give everybody a chance to meet them either at the Friday informal gathering, during the Commemoration or at the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening.

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Branch Secretaries are asked to raise subject of the dinner at their meetings and gather support from their members.

G. Welfare Process

The Regimental Welfare Team at RHQ is ready to help, at short notice anyone, who requires assistance. In January they made 37 grants totalling £28,181.86.

The system is very simple 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 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.

H. NORTHERN IRELAND LEGACY INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE

On 10 Jan 2020 Northern Ireland's main political parties agreed to a deal that restored the power-sharing government following its collapse three years ago. Hope that the government's manifesto promises to protect the veterans from vexatious litigation may bring some relief to veterans was put in doubt when it was subsequently reported, that a key component of the NI Assembly restoration was the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement (SHA). The SHA promised the continued investigation and prosecution those responsible for 'Troubles-related' deaths. To enable this the Government subsequently drafted a White Paper which set up the first of these, the Historical Investigations Unit (HIU). The primary task of the HIU is to investigate the 1700 outstanding 'Troubles-related' deaths with in a five-year timeframe.

In line with this initiative, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland directed that a programme be produced to conduct the 54 outstanding inquests in an article 2 compliant manner¹, within a five-year period. To enable this the government allocated £100 million to the formation of the HIU and a further £50 million to the Court Service Northern Ireland to fund legal proceedings.

The first tranche of this programme has been produced detailing 10 inquests for the year 2020/21. Preliminary letters into the first of these investigations are being sent to veterans by Fieldfisher, the coroner's solicitors. It is not yet clear if this involves any Regimental veterans, but the chain of command has yet to issue the full list.

Watch this space!

Contact details

If you have been affected by the current NI investigations or you know someone who has, please contact **Paul Rodgers** NI Legacy Officer, RHQ PARA, Merville Barracks, Colchester, Essex CO2 7UT Tel: Mil: 94660 7072 or Civ: 01206 817072 email: paul.rodgers694@mod.gov.uk or paul.rodgers694@gmail.com
Paul will be attending all three Regular Battalion Reunions in Blackpool this year and will be available to anyone that would like any advice or further information.

¹ Article 2 of the European Convention of Human Rights imposes a positive duty to investigate deaths in which State agents may be implicated. The European Court of Human Rights has established that in order to satisfy the requirements of Article 2, any investigation must be independent, prompt and proceed with reasonable expedition, be open to public scrutiny, involve the next of kin of the deceased and be capable of leading to a determination of whether any force used was justified and to the identification and punishment of those responsible for the death. Case law has determined that an inquest satisfies this investigatory obligation.

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I. Arnhem 75 Commemoration Coin

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN – 75th Anniversary September 2019



This coin was commissioned by The Parachute Regimental Association (PRA) at RHQ PARA.

The cost is £10, with all proceeds going to the central fund of the PRA. Please note the top band on the image (in grey) will be engraved on the side of each coin (quite unique).

There are a number of coins still available from RHQ PARA and anyone wishing to purchase one should email Julia on: admin@prahq.com or call on 01206 817077. There are no plans to order any more of these coins so if you would like to purchase one please do so at the earliest opportunity.

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. Pass out Parades (POP)

The scheduled Pass Out Parades for 2020 are as follows:

Oudna	Fri 14 Feb 20
Arnhem	Fri 17 Apr 20
Rhine	Fri 8 May 20
Normandy	Fri 19 Jun 20
Breville	Fri 7 Aug 20
Bruneval	Fri 25 Sep 20
Primosole	Fri 23 Oct 20
Athens	Fri 20 Nov 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 prior to attending as cancellations do occur, due to non-formation or amalgamation.

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K. Diary Dates

The diary is filling up now for 2020. Further event information is available on the website so please take a look: <https://theparachuteregimentalassociation.com/events/>

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.

22 Feb 20	Aldershot Bombing Memorial Service	Aldershot	Aldershot PRA
6 - 8 Mar 20	2 PARA Reunion david.singletery@ntlworld.com	Blackpool Mob: 07940 576977	POC: Dave Singletary
12 - 16 Mar 20	1 PARA Reunion arthur1para@outlook.com	Blackpool Mob: 07747 155261	POC: Arthur Mullander
20 - 22 Mar 20	3 PARA Reunion 3parareunionclub.co.uk	Blackpool	
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		
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	
20 Jun 20	PRA Commemoration Dinner	Bosworth Hall Hotel	

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

11 Jul 20	80 th Anniversary Commemoration	Tatton Park	
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Details of all these events and others are available on the Web Page at www.theparachuteregimentalassociation.com

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