



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 June 2021

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. Presentation of Colours
- B. WW2 Veteran Register
- C. PRA Artwork
- D. Insurance Renewal
- E. Farewell – Free Will Writing Service for Members
- F. Welfare Process
- G. Regimental Charity Donation
- H. 9 Para Memorial
- I. 3 days in June by James O'Connell
- J. Guards Para Association Memorial
- K. Suez Canal 1951-1953
- L. Arnhem Veteran Initiatives

Events

- M. Coventry/Northampton Branch Summer Event
- N. Diary Dates

A. Presentation of Colours

The presentation of new Colours to 1, 2 and 3 Para will take place on Tuesday 13 July 21 in Colchester. Attendance is strictly by invitation only. There has been a lot of speculation in regards to the parade and unfortunately this will not be on the scale of previous parades for such an occasion. Despite the reduction of restrictions across the UK, the MOD and RHQ Para has been directed to restrict the number of those that can attend to 2000 people. The guards on parade from each Battalion have been drastically reduced to allow more people to attend but this limited figure will not allow the occasion to be attended by a large number of people.

B. WW2 Veteran Register

RHQ Para along with a number of other Veteran organisations are working together to ensure that we have all WW2 Airborne Veterans details. We would like all Branches and individuals to notify us of any WW2 1st and 6th Airborne Division Veterans in their area. This will ensure that we have an accurate record of their service and contact details.

Please register by emailing Julia: admin@prahq.com

Please have the following information if possible:

Full Name

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

RHQ Disclaimer.

The Office of the Secretary of The Parachute Regimental Association is required to publish a disclaimer concerning any article or idea passed to branches by way of this letter. This letter provides a conduit between the branches to allow ideas, articles and topics to be viewed and discussed by the branches. Although these ideas, articles and topics appear in this newsletter it does not necessarily reflect the view of this office.

Service Number
Unit Served
Operations (Normandy, Arnhem, Ardennes, Rhine Crossing, Mote Casino etc.)

This project will continue with other Operations being collated. This will include Palestine, Malaya, Suez, NI, Falkland, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. Your support in this project would be greatly appreciated

C. PRA Artwork

A big thank you to Ex 2 Para veteran James McIntosh, who has been busy during lockdown doing a series of artwork for the PRA. The idea is to highlight the wide variety and age of our Airborne Veterans. Below is an example of his work



D. Insurance Renewal

The annual insurance policy has been renewed. All Branches are reminded that they require this insurance to carry out any collection or small event in their area. Supermarkets and stations will insist on you providing the Third Party insurance document prior to any collections taking place. This can be found at page 7 of the Policy document sent out by Julia.

The policy document will not be issued to any Branch that has not paid the Affiliation Fee for 2021.

E. Farewill – Free Will Writing Service for Members

Are you Ready for Anything? Have you prepared your Will?

As many as one in five people in the UK die without making a Will; many mistakenly think they do not own enough property or cash to need one. But making a Will is the only way to ensure that whatever you own is distributed according to your wishes.

You may already have a Will in place through a solicitor. If you don't, then SUPPORT OUR PARAS has a special offer for members of The Parachute Regimental Association: the opportunity to create a Will for FREE.

We have partnered with Farewill, the UK's largest Will-writing firm and National Will Writing Firm of the Year 2019 and 2020. They offer a simple online service where you can write your Will in under 30 minutes. When complete, you will be sent a hard copy for signing and witnessing in the usual way. Simply visit www.farewill.com/prs to get started. Alternatively, you can book an appointment to do it over the phone with an advisor at <https://farewill.com/paras-phone>

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

RHQ Disclaimer.

The Office of the Secretary of The Parachute Regimental Association is required to publish a disclaimer concerning any article or idea passed to branches by way of this letter. This letter provides a conduit between the branches to allow ideas, articles and topics to be viewed and discussed by the branches. Although these ideas, articles and topics appear in this newsletter it does not necessarily reflect the view of this office.

If you need any help during the process, Farewill's specialist team of paralegals are available over the phone or live chat 7 days a week, 9am-7pm.

As a member of the Airborne brotherhood, we hope you share our vision of supporting our Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces family. Whether they are just coming to battalion, have been on multiple tours, or left service many years ago, we are here for our soldiers, veterans, widows and families in need or distress. There is no obligation to leave a gift to our charity in your Will. However, if you can, your bequest will have a major impact on the lives of others.

The Trustees of the Charity have examined the Farewill service and recommend it. For more information, please visit www.supportourparas.org/legacies

F. Welfare Process

For serving personnel please contact your Unit Welfare Officer (UWO) in the first instance for any welfare support.

For veterans please contact the Support our Paras (the official charity of The Parachute Regiment) Welfare Team for any queries.

Laura McPhilemy, Head of Welfare. Email: HoW@supportourparas.org Tel: 07702 190685 or

Lisa Stapleton, Welfare Cell Manager. Email: wm@supportourparas.org Tel: 01206 817103

We are based within RHQ PARA in Merville Barracks, Colchester.

Support our Paras can assist any past or present member of The Parachute Regiment or wider Airborne Forces plus their families if eligible.

If you require financial assistance please contact either SSAFA 0800 731 4880 info@ssafa.org.uk or the RBL 0808 802 8080 info@britishlegion.org.uk in the first instance. You will be allocated a caseworker who will complete a Form A request for assistance with you. This will then be sent to the Support our Paras Welfare Team for consideration. Successful grants are issued swiftly back to the caseworker for onward payment. Urgent grants can be made on the day if required. This process is both confidential and transparent, providing an audit trail.

Welfare & Benevolence paid out in May 2021 was £16618.01 over 36 cases. Hardship was the highest category with assistance towards rent/priority debts/essential food and clothing. Other assistance ongoing transport costs for Afghan veteran to attend physio appointments, employment and training and mental health support.

G. Regimental Charity Donations

The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity (Support Our Paras) is slowly returning to normal and a number of fundraising events are now planned. There have been a number of great fundraising events organised by individuals and groups to support our charity, which is outstanding. Your continued support to the Regimental Charities is vital to the direct support of Airborne Veterans and their families, now and in the future.

H. 9 Para Memorial

Major (Retd) George Huxford and his wife recently came across a small memorial whilst on one of their walks on the North Wessex Downs. The memorial stands on Inkpen Hill, above the area where 9 PARA trained before their action at the Merville Battery.

The monument is clearly not forgotten as evidenced by the weather-beaten poppy wreath and crosses. However, the monument itself was rather uncared for. They decided to do something about it by "adopting" it and bringing it back to a state worthy of Lt Col Otway and his few good men.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

RHQ Disclaimer.

The Office of the Secretary of The Parachute Regimental Association is required to publish a disclaimer concerning any article or idea passed to branches by way of this letter. This letter provides a conduit between the branches to allow ideas, articles and topics to be viewed and discussed by the branches. Although these ideas, articles and topics appear in this newsletter it does not necessarily reflect the view of this office.

They managed to get a generator and water containers up to the site and were able to pressure wash it. In addition, they applied a chemical cleaner which will hopefully keep it clean for some time.



Left and below are the Before and After photos.

The site appears to be visited by a large number of walkers who may be motivated to find out more of 9 PARA and their achievements on D-Day.

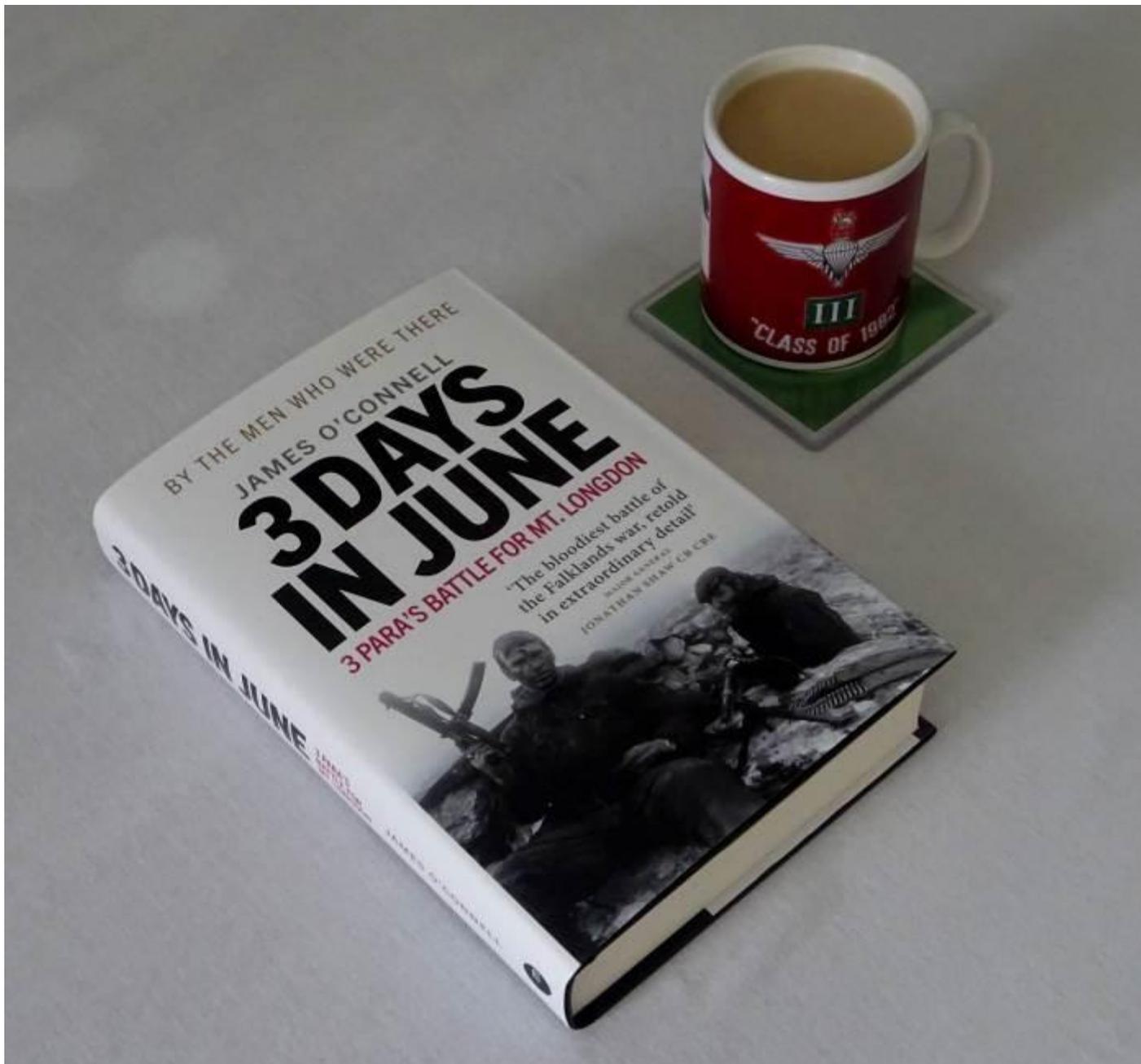
Our thanks go to George and his wife for cleaning up the memorial and making its location known to others.



I. **3 day in June by James O'Connell**

3 days in June by James O'Connell is the definitive account of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment during the Falklands campaign. However, it concentrates on last three days of the campaign, and has been put together with the goodwill of over 60 battalion members and attachments who took part in the campaign, this is the heart-breaking story of young men, some just on the cusp of adulthood.

Many people forget that the Task Force that sailed South in 1982 consisted of many young men who today would not be allowed to go into a combat zone. But, in 1982, possibly due to the haste of the campaign, 3 Para went into battle with 10 seventeen-year-olds and 42 eighteen years-olds, and many of them would shed their blood, and some would pay the ultimate price for the freedom of the Falkland Islands. This is their story



For more information please click on the link: [3 Days in June](#)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

RHQ Disclaimer.

The Office of the Secretary of The Parachute Regimental Association is required to publish a disclaimer concerning any article or idea passed to branches by way of this letter. This letter provides a conduit between the branches to allow ideas, articles and topics to be viewed and discussed by the branches. Although these ideas, articles and topics appear in this newsletter it does not necessarily reflect the view of this office.

J. Guards Para Association Memorial

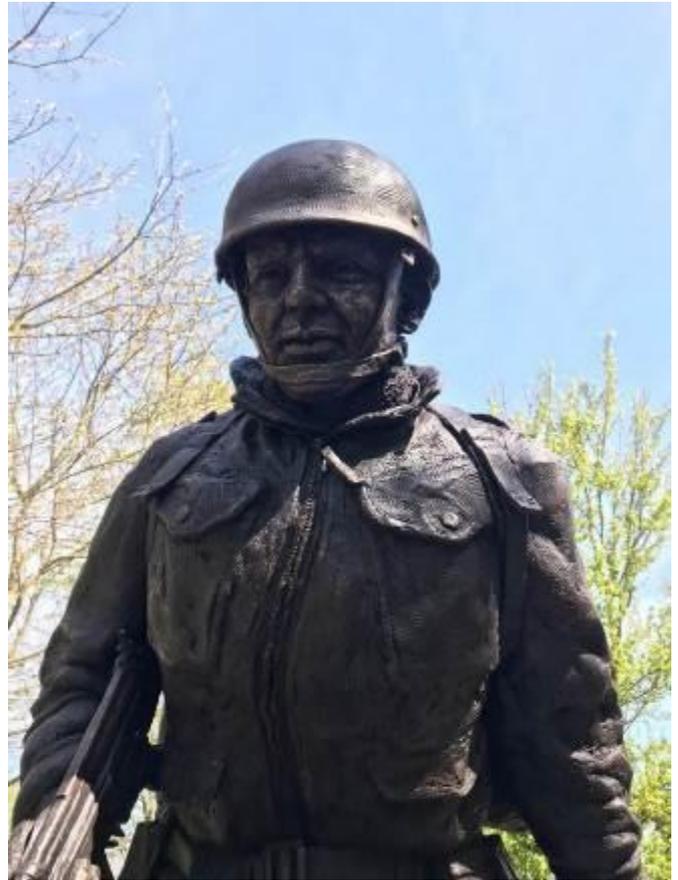
The installation of the Guard Para Association (GPA) Memorial at the NMA has now been completed. The 'Guardisman of the Sky Statue' was completed earlier this month. The Colonel Commandant, Lt General Sir John Lorimer, paid a visit to the GPA memorial whilst filming for the Regimental Commemoration and Normandy at the NMA on 18 May 21. Details of the unveiling and service of dedication has yet to be decided and more details will be available later.



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

RHQ Disclaimer.

The Office of the Secretary of The Parachute Regimental Association is required to publish a disclaimer concerning any article or idea passed to branches by way of this letter. This letter provides a conduit between the branches to allow ideas, articles and topics to be viewed and discussed by the branches. Although these ideas, articles and topics appear in this newsletter it does not necessarily reflect the view of this office.



K. Suez Canal 1951-1953

Veteran John Norman served with 33 Para Field Regt in the Suez Canal zone 51-53. During this time the Regiment provided a jeep and gun carriage for all funerals of any Para's who died during this time.



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

RHQ Disclaimer.

The Office of the Secretary of The Parachute Regimental Association is required to publish a disclaimer concerning any article or idea passed to branches by way of this letter. This letter provides a conduit between the branches to allow ideas, articles and topics to be viewed and discussed by the branches. Although these ideas, articles and topics appear in this newsletter it does not necessarily reflect the view of this office.

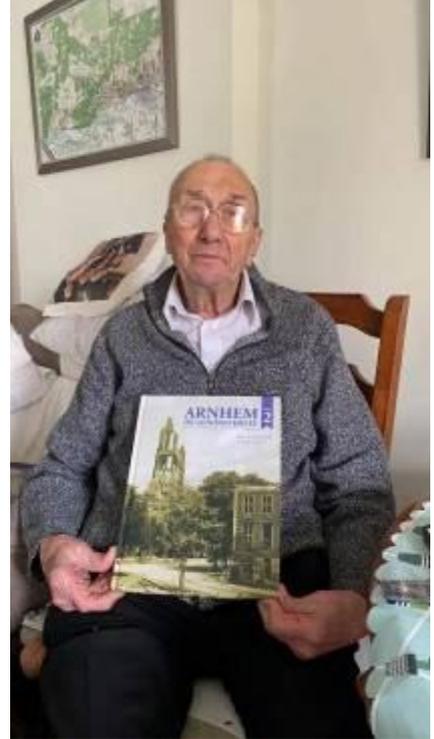
L. Arnhem Veteran Initiatives

We have been busy sending out two items from the Arnhem area for our veterans. The first is an album, which is the second edition of a collector's album that covers Arnhem during the period 1940-1945. This was originally issued by the Jumbo Supermarket chain in 2019.

The second is a cardboard envelope containing a letter of explanation. A personal letter from a student from the Pantarijn School Community in Wageningen as well as a wild flower plant card for their garden. The veterans were kindly asked to acknowledge receipt of the items and if possible respond to the student who wrote the letter. Below are photos of the veterans receiving their packages.



Ron Johnson (GPR) with Tony Ellis the SW Region Secretary



Geoff Roberts (KOSB)



Wilf Oldham with Lt Col Dave Macauley

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

RHQ Disclaimer.

The Office of the Secretary of The Parachute Regimental Association is required to publish a disclaimer concerning any article or idea passed to branches by way of this letter. This letter provides a conduit between the branches to allow ideas, articles and topics to be viewed and discussed by the branches. Although these ideas, articles and topics appear in this newsletter it does not necessarily reflect the view of this office.

Events

M. Coventry/Northampton Branch Summer Event

The Coventry and Northampton branches of the Parachute Regimental Association invite members and friends of the association to join them at their second annual summer rendezvous. The event will take place on 14th August 2021, 12pm until late.

The inaugural event in August 2019 proved a huge success, the highlight of which was a Parachute Display by the [Jump Dogs](#): a team made up of ex-Red Devils members and other experienced sky divers.

Once again, this event will be held at the Old Leamingtonian's RFC in the heart of the West Midlands. The club are huge supporters of The Parachute Regiment and have kindly offered the entire club to us, plus camping and caravan facilities (including hook up).

The event will open at 12pm and will include live music, outdoor entertainment (weather dependent), the Parachute Regimental mascot, a military marching band, a raffle of FANTASTIC prizes, a three team mini rugby tournament featuring the Forces Barbarians RFC, Old Leamingtonians Nomads and a Parachute Regiment invitational side. Tickets are limited, so please ensure you get yours early!

There is secure parking on site and also a hotel a walkable distance away from the club. Families who intend to bring children will have a separate area if they wish to camp.

All proceeds from the event will be split between the organising PRA branches.

Link to buy tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/manage/events/73178367467/details>

N. Diary Dates

Event information for 2021 is available on the website so please take a look:

<https://theparachuteregimentalassociation.com/events/>

If you have any dates for 2021 please let me know at the earliest opportunity so that they can be added to the diary. Information for events in 2022 can be sent to include on the website forecast of events. Full details of events should be sent when available and updated accordingly.

26 June 21	Armed Forces Day	https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/blog/
2-5 July 21	ABF Day	Aldershot
13 Jul 21	Presentation of Colours to 1, 2, 3 Para	Colchester
14 Aug 21	Coventry/Northants Branch Event	Old Leamingtonians Rugby Club
12 Sep 21	Op Market Garden Pde and Service	Somerby

For more details, please contact derekpeters@ntlworld.com

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

Paul Raison

Attachments:

1. Tribute to Luis DiMarco

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

RHQ Disclaimer.

The Office of the Secretary of The Parachute Regimental Association is required to publish a disclaimer concerning any article or idea passed to branches by way of this letter. This letter provides a conduit between the branches to allow ideas, articles and topics to be viewed and discussed by the branches. Although these ideas, articles and topics appear in this newsletter it does not necessarily reflect the view of this office.