



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 December 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. Christmas Message
- B. Regimental Charity Donation
- C. Colours Parade Memorabilia
- D. Remembrance Day – Sunday 14 November 2021
- E. PRAFC Christmas Hampers – Last Call
- F. Pegasus Journal Submissions 2022
- G. Welfare Process
- H. Falklands 40 Commemoration 2022
- I. Falklands 40 Next of Kin (NOK) Hosting
- J. West Berks Branch Remembrance Day – Malcolm Rowlands
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Events

- M. Diary Dates

A. Christmas Message

2021 has been a difficult year for everyone. These are challenging times and we have lost a number of personalities throughout this period. I am pleased to say that The Parachute Regimental Association Branches have coped admirably with the situation and continues to go from strength to strength. The New Year will bring new challenges as we continue to recover and move back to some form of normality. The Committees of all Branches do a fantastic job and I would like to personally thank everyone for their help and assistance during the past twelve months. On behalf of Julia and I here at RHQ, I would like to wish all our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

B. 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.

C. Colours Parade Memorabilia

This year on 13 July The Parachute Regiment celebrated the Presentation of new Colours to three Battalions, the first since 1998. The next such occasion will not be for another 25 years, so these are lifetime souvenirs, with limited stock remaining. When they are gone, they are gone, so don't miss out. They would also make

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superb Xmas presents. Get them now from The Airborne Shop <https://www.airborneshop.com/presentation-of-colours>

A list of all items available is at the end of this newsletter.

D. Remembrance Day – Sunday 14 November 2021

Remembrance Day 2021 was commemorated across the country by members of the Association. The parade at the Cenotaph in London was this year led by Lt General 'Jacko' Page CB OBE. Here are some photographs from London and Arnhem:



Arnhem



Lt General 'Jacko' Page CB OBE with the Association contingent on Horse Guards

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WW2 Veteran Tom Schaffer

E. PRAFC Christmas Hampers – Last Call

This is the last call for Branches to submit their applications for Christmas Hampers. You must complete the forms attached and return them to Julia as soon as possible.

Support our Paras, The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity, will be providing Christmas Hampers again this year, to be distributed to proven ex-Airborne soldiers or widows/partners in need. They do not have to be members of the Parachute Regimental Association. Our intent is that these hampers assist those alone or in need at Christmas time; they are not to thank people for work done or services rendered.

The attached proforma is to be filled in completely, regardless of method of delivery, and returned by **FRIDAY 03 DECEMBER 2021**. It is essential that the address is legible, checked for accuracy and accompanied by a postcode. It should then be returned to Julia Weymouth by email at admin@prahq.com or by post to RHQ PARA.

Christmas is a time of giving and for SUPPORT OUR PARAS, this means the gift of festive cheer. Every Christmas it has become a tradition for our charity to send a hamper to our veterans in need. These veterans are our Airborne brothers who may have previously been homeless, suffering with their mental health, are lonely and isolated or indeed suffering financially and in need of some support at this time of year.

Last year, SUPPORT OUR PARAS sent out 393 hampers at a cost of £85 each and we were delighted that a number of PRA branches supported our 2020 appeal. We really hope that you can help again by visiting www.justgiving.com/campaign/SOPHampers

F. Pegasus Journal Submissions 2022

Thank you to those that have submitted their photos and reports so far. If you have not done so yet please send them to: PJE@supportourparas.org by Fri 3 December 2021

Ideally we would like your report to be around 350-500 words in the form of a .doc file in Arial Font 12.

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Photos – please only send .jpeg in size 1-3 Mb, attach these images to your email. Please do not drag them into the body of the email as it affects the file size.

Last Post – Please continue to keep in touch with the Association until the end of the year so that we can add the names of Airborne Comrades who have died to the list in Pegasus Journal.

G. 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.

H. Falklands 40 Commemoration 2022

The 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War will be commemorated on Saturday 18 June 2022 in Aldershot.

I. Falklands 40 Next of Kin (NOK) Hosting

The NOK of those that died during the Falklands War will be invited to join the Commemoration on Saturday 18 June 2022. RHQ would like to invite people to register their interest in hosting the families of those that did not return who choose to attend. This would take up all of your day and will involve meeting the family members at an initial reception in Princes Hall and then escorting them to the Aldershot Military Cemetery for the Service of Remembrance led by Padre David Cooper.

Anyone who would like to register should send their details along with the name of the person whose family they would like to host to: Robert.Airey100@mod.gov.uk You may register to support more than one family in your order of priority and this will be taken into account once we have the returns from the families. Ideally we would like to have more than one host per family.

Your support in this would be greatly appreciated by RHQ PARA and more importantly by the families of the fallen. **Thank you to those that have registered already.**

J. West Berks Branch Remembrance Day – Malcolm Rowlands

During recent years we have adopted the church at Burghclere as our Remembrance Sunday home. The reasons are its airborne connections.

The previous vicar had an uncle who jumped at Arnhem and another who jumped at Normandy. Very sadly the current vicar's wife's son, Joe Whittaker, was killed in Afghanistan at the age of 20 in 2008 when serving with 2 Para.

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Private Joe Whittaker, a Territorial Army reservist serving with the 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment, was killed by a mine in Afghanistan in June 2008.

Joe attended Warwick School where he was a member of the Cadet Force. Leaving school, Joe joined 67 Signal Squadron, 37 Signal Regiment in 2005 and completed his basic training with them before he transferred to The 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (4 PARA) in October 2007. He was an enthusiastic member of 4 PARA making the round trip from Stratford-Upon-Avon to London for weekly drill nights.

In 2008, he volunteered to go on his first operational tour to Afghanistan, during the Herrick VIII deployment, attached to 2 PARA Battle Group. Having volunteered for a tour of Afghanistan. He had recently passed his Officer Selection and planned to attend RMA Sandhurst shortly after his return from Afghanistan. He was keen to become an Apache pilot.

Private Whittaker died when he was caught in an explosion from an IED in the Upper Sangin Valley in Helmand on 24 June 2008. Sgt Major Williams, of 2 PARA was also killed that day.

There is a plaque in the church in memory of Lt Col Des Voeux who was killed at Arnhem on 20 September 1944 when commanding 156 Para Bn. The family still live locally and his grandson, James Pockney, is an honorary member of our branch. James, an avid Arnhem historian, gave the Remembrance sermon, about his grandfather, at Cheam school this year.

I am grateful to James for his permission to share the PDF attachments which give the sermon text and some great photos.

Utrunque Paratus

The presentation and notes are attached to this newsletter.

K. Aldershot Branch Normandy 2022

The Aldershot Branch are organising a trip to Normandy in 2022. Numbers for the trip are looking good but they need a few more to make it viable. The trip is from 6th till 9th May 2022. More details are available in the attachment. Please get in touch with Stuart McLaren if interested on: Phone: 01252 65 65 86 Email: s.mclaren@ntlworld.com

L. Aldershot Branch Mess Bombing 50th Event

On Tuesday 22nd February 1972 the IRA planted a bomb and blew up the 16th Parachute Brigade Officers Mess in Aldershot. Captain Gerard Weston MBE, a Roman Catholic Priest and army padre, the gardener and five ladies who worked in the Officers Mess were killed. After a short time, the site was cleared, trees were planted and a small memorial was placed where the mess stood. The 50th Anniversary of the bombing will take place at the new memorial on Tuesday 22nd February next year. More details can be found in the attached document.

EVENTS

M. 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 2022 please let me know at the earliest opportunity so that they can be added to the diary. Information for events can be sent to include on the website forecast of events. Full details of events such as date, time, outline of event, cost etc. should be sent when available and updated accordingly.

11-13 March 22
POC: Al Jones:

2 Para Reunion
allen.jones1@ntlworld.com or 07970415951

Blackpool

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9 Apr 22	Executive Committee Meeting	Colchester
30 April 22	Army v Navy Rugby	Twickenham
6-8 May 22	3 Para Reunion	Blackpool
POC: Ray Larkin:	raylarkin@virginmedia.com	
14 May 22	Hardwick Hall	Derbyshire
12 Jun 22	Pangbourne Falklands Memorial	Pangbourne
14 Jun 22	RBL Falklands Memorial Service	NMA
18 Jun 22	Falklands 40 th Memorial Service	Aldershot
9 Jul 22	Tatton Park Service	Manchester
16 Jul 22	ABF North	Eden Camp
23 Jul 22	PRA Commemoration Day	NMA
1 Aug 22	80 th Anniversary Day	Colchester

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

Paul Raison

Attachments:

1. PRAFC Christmas Hampers letter and proforma
2. Cheam Remembrance service and photos
3. Aldershot Normandy Trip
4. Aldershot Branch Mess Bombing 50th Memorial Event

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Parachute Regiment Presentation of Colours 2021 Official Merchandise

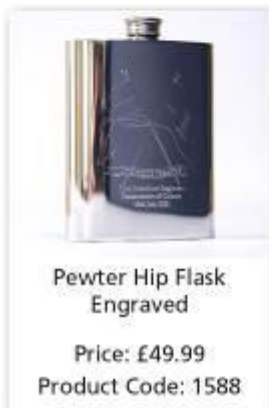


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or by telephone on 0115 819 2173



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Engraved

Price: £49.99
Product Code: 1588



Challenge Coin in
Presentation Box

Price: £12.99
Product Code: 1587



Cross Coventry Premium
Pen with Case

Price: £32.99
Product Code: 1584



Metal Pen, Maroon

Price: £3.99
Product Code: 1583



Aluminium Drinks
Bottle (800ml)

Price: £9.99
Product Code: 1581



Silver Plated
Presentation Teaspoon

Price: £6.99
Product Code: 1591



Bottle Opener Keyring

Price: £4.99
Product Code: 1585



A5 Notebook

Price: £5.99
Product Code: 1589



Cool Bag

Price: £9.99
Product Code: 1582



Cotton Shopping Bag

Price: £3.49
Product Code: 1590



Mug

Price: £7.99
Product Code: 1580



Parachute Regiment Presentation of Colours
Limited Edition Mug

Price: £8.99
Product Code: 1598

1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of The Parachute Regiment were presented with new Regimental Colours at Merville Barracks, Colchester, on 13th of July 2021, by HRH The Prince of Wales.

The new Regimental Colours replace those previously presented to the battalions at Aldershot in 1998.

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