



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 January 2022

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. A look Forward to 2022
- B. Regimental Charity Donation
- C. Colours Parade Memorabilia
- D. Dover Branch Boxing Day Dip
- E. PRAFC Christmas Hampers – Message of Thanks
- F. Covid-19 Fraud and Scams
- G. Pegasus Journal Submissions 2022
- H. Welfare Process
- I. Falklands 40 Next of Kin (NOK) Hosting
- J. Aldershot Branch Normandy 2022
- K. Aldershot Branch Mess Bombing 50th Event

Events

- L. Diary Dates

A. A Look Forward to 2022

There are a large number of events planned for 2022, which will be run in accordance with the restrictions that COVID-19 places upon us. The details of these will be placed on the events page of the PRA Website, as well as in brief form in this newsletter. Please refer to the website for the most accurate and up to date information when planning or looking for additional information as the event gets closer. As always, we will have to remain flexible and up to date with the regulations in place at the time, to ensure that all those that attend are well informed and feel safe enough to attend. The success of any event relies upon those attending, so please support the key events where you can. Best wishes for 2022.

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.

Anyone looking to raise money for Support Our Paras should get in touch as soon as possible to see how the team can help you. Check out the website at: <https://supportourparas.org/>

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,

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with limited stock remaining. When they are gone, they are gone, so don't miss out. They would also make superb gifts. 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. Dover Branch Boxing Day Dip

The Dover Branch chose a special way to celebrate Boxing Day by taking a dip in the sea. A great turn out but I bet there were a few fabloned sick chits produced on the day.



Before



After

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E. PRAFC Christmas Hampers – Messages of Thanks

The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity (PRAFC) has once again provided Christmas Hampers this year. They were distributed to proven ex-Airborne soldiers and their dependents in need.

We have received many messages of thanks from those that received the hampers, which shows how much they are appreciated.

Thank you to all the Branch Secretaries that completed the paperwork and especially Gwen Appleton and Julia Weymouth the RHQ Staff involved in their processing.

SUPPORT OUR PARAS sent out 381 hampers at a cost of £85 each and are delighted that a number of PRA branches supported our 2021 appeal. You can still help by visiting www.justgiving.com/campaign/SOPHampers

Thank you very much to all the Branches that have donated to this fund already. Your support to the PRAFC and the veterans and their families that receive the hampers is greatly appreciated by all.

F. Covid-19 Fraud and Scams

Another Lockdown has once again brought with it a number of scams. It is important that you remain vigilant and guard against criminals using the publicity around coronavirus as a chance to target you with fraudulent emails, phone calls, texts messages or social media posts.

It's important not to let the criminals rush or panic you into making a decision that you later come to regret.

With fake news articles on the internet and in the press promoting remedies, cures and false advice around coronavirus, it's also important to only share articles from trustworthy sources. If you are in any doubt, then visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus or www.who.int/ for updates and information.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. Stop and think: it could protect you and your money.

General Advice

Emails and text messages

If you receive an email, text or WhatsApp message purporting to be from the government, HMRC, the World Health Organisation (WHO) or a coronavirus-related charity, then **take a moment to think** before you part with your money or information.

Never click on links or download attachments as criminals may infect your devices with malware or ask you to enter your personal or financial information into fake websites. In some cases, this can lead to your identity being stolen.

- Sam received an email from a government department, letting him know that he could claim financial help if he clicked on a link. When Sam clicked the link, he was directed to a fake website designed to look like that of the genuine organisation but which was actually collecting his personal and financial information. Sam failed to receive a payment and was also unaware that his computer was infected with malware as a result of clicking on the link.

Phone calls

If you receive a call offering you protective face masks, hand sanitiser, testing kits or medicine, be aware that they may not always be genuine. If you do receive a call, don't be afraid to **refuse, reject or ignore** their request. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

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- Leon thought he was buying face masks and hand sanitisers that were sold out everywhere else. However, after completing his purchase, he failed to receive his order and his money was now in the hands of a criminal.

Social media posts

With world markets currently under immense pressure, the chance to move your money to new investments with unusually high returns may sound like too good an opportunity to miss. Proceed with caution and make sure you check the [Financial Conduct Authority's register for regulated firms](#), individuals and bodies. It could be fraud or a scam if you're being pressurised to act quickly. **If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.**

- Steve saw an advertisement from a stockbroking firm which claimed that due to coronavirus investments weren't making the profits that they could be. It said that moving his investment to this firm would guarantee high returns with little to no risk. Steve moved his investment and only realised he had been scammed when he was unable to contact the company on their normal number or via email in order to get his money back.

A knock on the door

You should always exercise caution when accepting help from an individual or allowing them access to your home in any capacity. You should only accept assistance or take visits from people well-known to you, or who you know have been sent by a government body or reputable organisation. If you are in any doubt about someone's identity, you should take steps to verify it – by directly contacting the organisation they claim to be from using a number you know to be genuine.

There are no cures or vaccines for Covid-19 at this time and medical or health professionals will not come to your home unannounced and without prior notification.

If anyone attempts to force or coerce you into handing over funds – in person or otherwise – always contact the police.

- Linda was particularly worried about contracting the virus as she was vulnerable and lived alone. She received a knock on her door from someone claiming to be a health and safety worker advising that they needed to enter her home to complete an assessment and that she needed to pay for this upfront. Linda handed over the money, but no assessment was undertaken.

If you believe you've fallen for a scam, contact your bank immediately on a number you know to be correct, such as the one listed on a statement, their website or on the back of your debit or credit card.

G. 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 ASAP as they are now late and may not be included.

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

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.

H. 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

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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.

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. 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

K. 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

L. Diary Dates

Event information for 2022 is becoming 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 be included on the website forecast of events. Full details of events such as date, time, outline of event, cost etc. must be provided and updated accordingly.

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11-13 Mar 22 Al Jones:	2 Para Reunion allen.jones1@ntlworld.com or 07970415951	Blackpool
17-20 Mar 22 Arthur Mullander:	1 PARA Reunion arthur1para@outlook.com or 07747 155261	Blackpool
9 Apr 22	Executive Committee Meeting	Colchester
30 April 22	Army v Navy Rugby	Twickenham
6-8 May 22 Ray Larkin:	3 Para Reunion raylarkin@virginmedia.com	Blackpool
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 Regtl Anniversary Day	Colchester

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

Paul Raison

Attachments:

1. Aldershot Normandy Trip
2. Aldershot Branch Mess Bombing 50th Memorial Event

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Parachute Regiment Presentation of Colours 2021 Official Merchandise



Limited stock remaining

Secure your keepsakes from this once in a generation event

Available exclusively from The Airborne Shop

Order online at www.airborneshop.com/presentation-of-colours
or by telephone on 0115 819 2173



Pewter Hip Flask
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



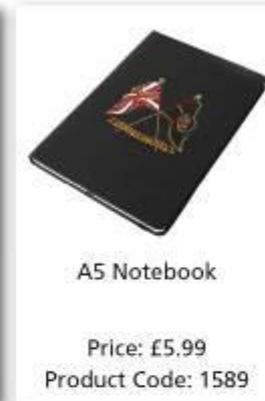
Silver Plated
Presentation Teaspoon

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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