



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 March 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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month to the Secretary at [secretary@prahq.com](mailto:secretary@prahq.com)

### Topics:

- A. Commemorative Events in 2022
- B. Falkland Veteran Interviews
- C. RBL - Falklands Stories Wanted
- D. Regimental Charity Donation
- E. Affiliation Fees 2022
- F. Winter Fuel Payments
- G. Applying for Army Records
- H. Welfare Process
- I. Falklands 40 Next of Kin (NOK) Hosting
- J. Aldershot Branch Normandy 2022
- K. Chelmsford & District Arnhem Trip 2022
- L. Cypress Veterans Remembrance Day
- M. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect
- N. Support Our Paras - Job Opportunity

### Events

- O. Diary Dates

#### A. Commemorative Events in 2022

There are a number of events planned across the country for 2022 that you may wish to consider attending. The Regimental main effort is the Falklands 40<sup>th</sup> Commemorations that will be held in Aldershot on Saturday 18 June. Plans for this are going well and all Falklands NOK, Veterans families and friends have been invited. This is a great Regimental day and everyone is very welcome to join us on the day. Anyone wishing to attend to should email Julia on: [admin@prahq.com](mailto:admin@prahq.com)

If you are aware of any NOK or Veteran that requires welfare assistance in attending this event, please get in touch.

#### B. Falkland Veteran Interviews

RHQ Para would like to interview a number of Falklands Veterans in the run up to the Falklands 40 CommemorationS in June. Ideally we would like to arrange visits to Branches that have a number of Falklands Veterans so that we can capture them at the same time. The format would be video interview, not podcast and the output would be Para Regt and PRA Facebook. The interviews would be short snippets of your time before, during or after the Falklands War.

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Any Branch that would be interested in arranging this should contact the Secretary at the earliest opportunity with some suggested dates and the number of Falklands Veterans that are willing to take part.

### **C. RBL - Falklands Stories Wanted**

The RBL is looking for individuals who would be willing to share their stories and experiences of serving in the Falklands during the conflict. These could be used in the media as well on the RBL's digital channels such as their website and social media accounts.

As part of their commemorative activity, they plan to share content on their channels from April onwards, culminating in coverage of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event at the National Memorial Arboretum in June. In addition to this, they are anticipating significant interest from national and regional media and are looking for people willing to share their stories in a range of broadcast, print and online media outlets.

The RBL's Press Office would be grateful if you could take a moment to respond with answers to the following:

- The names and contact details of individuals willing to be contacted about sharing their stories.
- A brief summary of their service during the Falklands and any notable memories they are particularly keen to share (a sentence or two will suffice).
- Whether they have a link to the Royal British Legion – have they ever been supported by the RBL, are they a RBL member etc
- Any other interesting points – do they have a generational link to the military, do they have any interesting memorabilia from the time, are they looking to be reunited with anyone from the conflict as part of the commemorations?

The RBL would be grateful to receive all information as soon as possible as the earlier they receive stories the more likely they are to feature. Information should be sent to:

Email – The Royal British Legion's Press Office – [PRAdmin@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:PRAdmin@britishlegion.org.uk)

Once they have received the information those concerned may be contacted by a member of the Legion's PR or wider marketing team.

Please don't be humble, they know many of you will have many poignant and extraordinary stories in which there could be wide public interest, and we are keen to share as many of these as possible.

### **D. 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/>

### **E. Affiliation Fees 2022**

Thank you to all those that have forwarded their affiliation fees to Julia for 2022. 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 was completed in 2020 and we now have substantially better cover than in previous years.

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.

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## 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 22).
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 2022.

## F. Winter Fuel Payment

Winter Fuel Payment is an annual tax-free payment to help with heating costs. Most payments are made between November and December and should have been received by 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

In the financial year April 2021 to March 2022 the payment is:

£200 if you're under 80

£300 if you're over 80.

However, you will usually get less if you live with other people who also qualify or if you live in a care home or nursing home and don't get one of the following benefits:

- Pension Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support.
- If you live in a care home **or nursing home and receive any of these benefits then you're not entitled to any Winter Fuel Payment.**

You may be eligible for Winter Fuel Payment if you meet all the following criteria:

- you were born on or before 5 October 1954 (to be eligible for the financial year April 2020 to March 2021 – the eligibility birth date changes every financial year).
- you lived in the UK throughout the qualifying week (for the financial year 2020–2021, this is 21–28 September 2020)

You usually get a Winter Fuel Payment automatically if you receive the State Pension or another benefit, such as Pension Credit (but not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support or Universal Credit).

If you qualify, but don't get paid automatically, you'll need to make a claim.

## How can I claim Winter Fuel Payment?

If this is the first year you can claim, or if you've never claimed before, call the Winter Fuel Payment helpline on 0800 731 0160. You'll need to know your National Insurance number and your bank or building society details.

More information can be found her: <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment>

## Useful Numbers

The Silver Line is the only free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Need help? Call us ANYTIME on: [0800 4 70 80 90](tel:08004708090)

## G. Applying for Army Records

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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 online at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records>

#### **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](mailto:HoW@supportourparas.org) Tel: 07702 190685 or

Lisa Stapleton, Welfare Cell Manager. Email: [wm@supportourparas.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@ssafa.org.uk) or the RBL 0808 802 8080 [info@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto: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 not 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](mailto: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](mailto:s.mclaren@ntlworld.com)

#### **K. Chelmsford & District Arnhem Trip 2022**

The Chelmsford and District Branch are organising a trip to Arnhem in September 2022. They require a minimum of 25 trippers and they are currently 8 short on numbers. Details are as follows:

Dates: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September to Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September

Leaving Chelmsford (Parking provided in Broomfield Church Car Park) with pickup points at Lakeside Thurrock. Staying at the Hotel De Bilderberg Oosterbeek, on a B & B Basis with an evening meal on the first night.

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The Coach & Driver are at our exclusive disposal for the duration of the trip.  
The cost of the trip will be £559.00 per person, on the basis of sharing a twin room.  
There will be a single room supplement if required.  
Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

For more details please email the Secretary Brian Whymark: [brianwhymark@talktalk.net](mailto:brianwhymark@talktalk.net)

#### **L. Cypress Veterans Remembrance Day**

There are few people that know that we lost a total of 372 men during the 1955 to 1959 Cyprus Emergency, 12 of them died whilst serving with The Parachute Regiment

The Cypress Veterans Association will be holding their next Service of Remembrance at The National Memorial Arboretum Staffordshire commencing at 12.00hrs on Sunday the 14th of August 22.

This is some time off but if you have any comrades that you haven't seen for years, or you have never been to The Arboretum this could be the ideal opportunity.

Anyone wishing to attend should email Les Smith, Royal Horse Guards on: [cypirusveterans@gmail.com](mailto:cypirusveterans@gmail.com)



#### **M. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect**

Following three successful rides in 2019, 2020 and 2021, a team of four veterans, Paul Moore (61 – Peterlee, Co. Durham), Charlie McColgan, both Royal Engineers and Falkland 1982 veterans along with veterans Phill Damant, ex Royal Air Force and Tony McKie ex Parachute Regiment, will be riding around the UK by motorbike. The ride will start on Monday 2 May to Sunday 15 May 2022, visiting the gravesites and memorials of men who lost their lives in the Falklands War in 1982. They will ride a total of around 2,660 miles in 14 days and visit over 75 graves and memorials of the Falklands War.

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The veterans are completing this ride to highlight that as we approach the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Falklands War, those who were lost, in that short but brutal conflict and to ensure they are not forgotten. The riders intend to pay respects to the fallen and meet their families, in order to raise awareness of where these heroes lie, whether it be in the UK, in the Falkland Islands or at sea in the South Atlantic Ocean. Full details are available in the attached documents.

#### **N. Support Our Paras - Job Opportunity**

A new position has been created within the Welfare team of Support our Paras.

The new Career Transition Officer (CTO) will provide support to those leaving and recent service leavers of The Parachute Regiment as they enter civilian life. This may be in the form of employment, housing or medical advice. The position will be based in Colchester, with travel as required across the UK.

Further details are available in the attached document. Closing date for applications is 11 March 22.

## **EVENTS**

#### **O. 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.

11-13 Mar 22 Al Jones:	<b>2 Para Reunion</b> <a href="mailto:allen.jones1@ntlworld.com">allen.jones1@ntlworld.com</a> or 07970415951	Blackpool
17-20 Mar 22 Arthur Mullander:	<b>1 PARA Reunion</b> <a href="mailto:arthur1para@outlook.com">arthur1para@outlook.com</a> 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:	<b>3 Para Reunion</b> <a href="mailto:raylarkin@virginmedia.com">raylarkin@virginmedia.com</a>	Blackpool
7 May 22 Les Ratcliffe,	<b>4 PARA Reunion</b> 07711 853103 or Dave Macaulay, 07731 824247	Leeds
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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Regtl Anniversary Day	Colchester
11 Sep 22	Somerby Arnhem Parade	Leicester

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Details of all these events and others are available on the Web Page at  
[www.theparachuteregimentalassociation.com](http://www.theparachuteregimentalassociation.com)

*Paul Raison*

Attachments:

1. Aldershot Normandy Trip
2. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect
3. Support Our Paras – Job Opportunity
4. Pagoda Watches

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