



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 May 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. Busy Times Ahead
- B. Falklands 40th Anniversary – Outline of Events
- C. Falklands 40 Next of Kin (NOK) Hosting
- D. Regimental Charity Donation
- E. Affiliation Fees 2022 – Final Reminder
- F. Welfare Process
- G. Memorial to Sgt Ian McKay VC
- H. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect
- I. Spam Emails – Warning

Events

- J. Diary Dates

A. Busy Times Ahead

As the year steadily progresses and the weather improves, the number of events in the Airborne calendar increases. It is great to see so many of our annual events being planned to take place across the country. June will be especially busy due to the 40th anniversary of The Falklands War. Events for this are being held from Plymouth to Scotland and everyone is encouraged to support one near you. A wide range of other events are taking place and Hardwick Hall, Chesterfield on the 14 May will be a great day out.

B. Falklands 40th Anniversary – Outline of Events

The 40th Anniversary of The Falklands War will take place in Aldershot on Saturday 18 June 22. The format will be as follows:

0900hrs	Initial Reception
1100hrs	Service of Remembrance
1330hrs	Veteran and Serving Soldier march past
1415hrs	Speech by VIP
1420hrs	Main Reception in Princes Hall and Gardens

The day will start at 0900hrs at Princes Hall for all those that have registered. If you have not registered yet and would like to do so, please email Julia on: admin@prahq.com This initial reception will give you the opportunity to meet the NOK of those that did not return.

Due to ongoing works in Aldershot Town Centre the route of the march has been shortened. Those Falkland Veterans that do not wish to march are invited to line the route opposite Princes Hall so that they are part of the

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parade at the start and when they return. If you wish to take part in the salute, there is an option to 'fall out' immediately after Princes Hall and join those lining the route. This will be controlled on the day and guidance given.

Parking in Aldershot Town Centre has been drastically reduced due to the building work. You are strongly recommended to leave your car at your hotel. Coaches will be available from 0930hrs from Princes Hall and gardens to take you to the Aldershot Military Cemetery for the Service of Remembrance and back. Limited disabled parking is available near to Princes Hall and Gardens. This must be booked by emailing Rob: Robert.Airey100@mod.gov.uk There is very little parking at the Aldershot Military Cemetery due to the sale of MOD land in the area.

C. 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 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.**

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 – Final Reminder

Thank you to all those that have forwarded their affiliation fees to Julia for 2022. The annual Affiliation Fee remains at £50. This is despite the rising cost of insurance during the past 12 months.

Payment is due now and 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.

The insurance certificate for Branches to use for events and collections is available to all those that have paid. It will not be issued or supported by PRA RHQ if Branches have not paid without prior consultation with the Secretary.

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, RDIFFT, Pony Mascot, associated Regimental assets (subject to availability).

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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.

F. Welfare Process

It is very important that Branches use the regimental welfare Team for any cases that are reported to them. We have had a number of cases recently that have escalated into quite complex cases and members of the Branch have been unnecessarily burdened by the work this has produced. The Welfare Team are trained to deal with these cases and will be able to identify the most suitable course of action for an individual in need.

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: 07340 347136

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.

G. Memorial to Sgt Ian McKay VC

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council have kindly agreed to honour Sgt Ian McKay VC who was killed on Mount Longdon during the Falklands War in 1982. This will mark the 40th anniversary in Barnsley, as Wortley was his birthplace.

Sgt McKay's name will be read out during events and commemorations associated with the conflict and the Armistice this year. A service and wreath laying will take place on Tue 14 June 22. The memorial will include a photograph of Sgt McKay VC and they will also share his story in the Civic Military Memorial cases at Barnsley Town Hall.

In addition, the Armed Forces Champion for Barnsley has ordered a tablet which will be sited next to another VC winner, Albert Shepherd which is in front of the Cenotaph at Barnsley Town Hall.

Detailed location and timings will be available shortly.

H. 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 40th 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.

I. Spam Emails – Warning

RHQ Para has recently identified a number of SPAM emails from unknown sources being sent to branches across the country. The latest called for support in Ukraine. Anyone who has received this email should not respond.

The purpose of a scam email is often to get you to click a link. This will take you to a website which might download a virus to your computer, or steal passwords or other personal information. This is sometimes known as 'phishing'.

Cyber criminals may contact you via email, text, phone call or via social media. They will often pretend to be someone (or an organisation) you trust.

It used to be easier to spot scams. They might contain bad spelling or grammar, come from an unusual email address, or feature imagery or design that feels 'off'. But scams are getting smarter and some even fool the experts.

How to spot scam messages or calls

Scammers try to quickly gain your trust. They aim to pressure you into acting without thinking.

If a message or call makes you suspicious, stop and consider the language it uses. Scams often feature one or more of these tell-tale signs:

Is the message claiming to be from someone official? For example, your bank, doctor, a solicitor, or a government department. Criminals often pretend to be important people or organisations to trick you into doing what they want.

Urgency

Are you told you have a limited time to respond (such as 'within 24 hours' or 'immediately')? Criminals often threaten you with fines or other negative consequences.

Emotion

Does the message make you panic, fearful, hopeful or curious? Criminals often use threatening language, make false claims of support, or tease you into wanting to find out more.

Scarcity

Is the message offering something in short supply, like concert tickets, money or a cure for medical conditions? Fear of missing out on a good deal or opportunity can make you respond quickly.

Current events

Are you expecting to see a message like this? Criminals often exploit current news stories, big events or specific times of year (like tax reporting) to make their scam seem more relevant to you.

How to check if a message is genuine

- If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. **Don't** use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website.
- Remember, your bank (or any other official source) will **never** ask you to supply personal information via email.

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- If you are in any doubt about the sender of any email you should 'Double Click' on the email address and look at it. If it is not from a recognised email address or ends in a domain name (last two or three letters) that is not recognised, please report and delete.
- Ideally you should 'Right Click' on the email address and scroll down to 'Report as Junk' or 'Block' the email. This will prevent them emailing you again.

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN ANY ATTACHMENTS AS THEY MAY CAUSE HARM TO YOUR COMPUTER IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE ANTI VIRUS SOFTWARE.

Report an email you think is a scam

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk

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EVENTS

J. 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 or beyond, 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.

6-8 May 22 Ray Larkin:	3 Para Reunion raylarkin@virginmedia.com	Blackpool
7 May 22 Les Ratcliffe,	4 PARA Reunion 07711 853103 or Dave Macaulay, 07731 824247	Leeds
14 May 22	Hardwick Hall	Derbyshire
14 May 22	Ian McKay VC Service	Barnsley
12 Jun 22	Pangbourne Falklands Memorial	Pangbourne
10 Jun 22 The Jigsaw Memorial,	40 th Anniversary Falklands White Swan Centre, Citadel East, Killingworth NE12 6SS	Killingworth
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
3 Aug 22	80 th Regtl Anniversary Day	Colchester
11 Sep 22	Somerby Arnhem Parade	Leicester

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

Paul Raison

Attachments:

1. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect

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