



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 October 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. Her Majesty The Queen
- B. Energy Bill Support Scheme
- C. Remembrance Day – Sunday 13 November 2022
- D. Airborne Forces 80 - 40th Anniversary of OP CORPORATE
- E. Pegasus Journal Subscriptions
- F. Arnhem 78
- G. PRAFC Christmas Hampers 2022
- H. Regimental Charity Donation
- I. Welfare Process
- J. Memorial to Pte Parr 2 Para
- K. Changes to Branch Officials
- L. Reporting Deaths and Injuries

Events

- M. Diary Dates

A. Her Majesty The Queen

Together we mourn the loss of our Queen and Commander-in-Chief. We have all been privileged to serve under Britain's most enduring and finest monarch, for whom service and duty were above all else.

Her Majesty set an example to us of dedication, honour and integrity that is unmatched in public life. She earned her subjects' devotion, loyalty and deep respect, sentiments reflected around the world. May she rest in peace.

We now pledge our loyalty and support to His Majesty King Charles III, our Colonel in Chief and Patron, on acceding to the throne. God Save The King.



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As with many hundreds of thousands of people across the UK and further afield, members of the Dover branch paraded with family and friends to thank Her Majesty for her service. Standard Bearer Reg Wilkie led from the front and their very own Padre Stephen Temp conducted a short service.



B. Energy Bill Support Scheme

The Energy Bills Support Scheme provides a £400 non-repayable discount to eligible households to help with their energy bills over winter 2022 to 2023.

The discount is automatic. If you get a message asking for your bank details, this could be a scam.

Eligibility

All households with a domestic electricity connection in England, Scotland and Wales are eligible for the discount.

- If your circumstances change
- You'll still get the discount if:
 - you change your payment method
 - you change your tariff
 - you switch electricity supplier
 - you move to a new address
 - your supplier goes bust
 - you're in arrears on your electricity bill payments

How you'll get the discount

You do not need to apply for the discount, and there's no need to contact your energy supplier.

The discount will be applied to your monthly household electricity bill for 6 months starting in October 2022. You'll get:

- £66 in October and November
- £67 in December, January, February and March

You'll get the discount monthly, even if you pay for your energy quarterly or use a payment card.

Traditional prepayment meter users will get equivalent vouchers that you will need to redeem.

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Your electricity supplier should provide more guidance on the scheme before it starts.

If you have not received your first instalment by the end of October 2022, you need to contact your supplier.

For more information, please click on the link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-the-energy-bills-support-scheme-discount>

C. Remembrance Day – Sunday 13 November 2022

This year's Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph will take place on Sunday 13 November 2022.

Applications are now closed.

For planning purposes here are the outline Timings for the Event

- 0800 Horse Guards open
- 1000 Contingents are to be Assembled ready to march into Whitehall
- 1005 Contingents step off from Horse Guards as directed by Parade Marshals
- 1050 All contingents to be formed up in Whitehall
- 1059 A member of the Royal family arrives at the Cenotaph
- 1100 Two Minute Silence
- TBC March Past Starts

D. Airborne Forces 80 - 40th Anniversary of OP CORPORATE

On Saturday 9th July '22, the Northwest Region of The Parachute Regimental Association held a commemorative event at Tatton Park Cheshire (the wartime drop zone and training ground for No 1 PTS). Planning and preparation for this event commenced in 2019 but the event had to be cancelled in 2020/21 due to the COVID pandemic.

The grand hall at Tatton Park was used as the focal point for the days event. This is a spectacular venue with some stunning parkland at the rear.

The day dawned with a clear summer sky and perfect weather. 400 veterans and their families arrived at the park to enjoy the days events. Ten Falklands veterans from 2&3 PARA attended which added something special to the day. In addition, a 99 year old GPR veteran who had flown a Hamilcar across the Rhine in 1945, a 100 year old RASC Arnhem veteran also added something to the days events.

The day started with a drumhead service on the rear steps of the grand hall. Padre Jerry Sutton lead the service and stayed strong as an Emirates A380 flying from Manchester airport flew directly overhead. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire was in attendance as was Maj Gen Adrian Freer OBE and Falklands veteran. A lunch within the hall followed with musical entertainment supplied by the band from The Duke of Lancaster Regiment.

A flypast of a BBMF Hurricane flown by the RAF Conningsbury station commander looked amazing with the backdrop of the parklands.

A march past of veterans led by PRA branch standards and Falklands veterans took place with Maj Gen Adrian Freer OBE and a 101 year old Arnhem veteran taking the salute.

Static displays were provided by Jon Baker and Ben Hill from the ABF museum at Duxford. They were complimented by a local WWII arms collector as well as items from No 1 PTS 'interest room'.

The day was rounded off with a spectacular display by the RAF Falcons free fall team. This was a perfect way to end what turned out to be a fantastic day in so many ways.

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After three years of planning and two years of waiting, the day was a fitting tribute to 80 years of ABF and a salute to those who took part in Op CORPORATE in 1982.

E. Pegasus Journal Submissions 2022

We invite all Parachute Regimental Associations to submit your reports for Pegasus Journal 2022. The Editor has brought the date forward as we are not using an in-house design team this year. RHQ PARA will gather the reports and photographs from PRA Branches and Units, proof read them, make amendments, and then send out to a commercial design and print company. This will take more time.

Please send your written report as a Word document, - **do not** attach photos to the word doc, please send them as .jpeg or .pdf separately. Don't forget to caption the photos.

There are now two email addresses for your contributions, please use both of them in your submission as this will assist in the workflow.

armypictureeditor@yahoo.co.uk
pje@supportourparas.org

Last Post entries in the journal– if you have details of paratroopers who have sadly passed away this year, please send their details to Julia Weymouth at admin@prahq.com Formal obituaries can also be submitted and we will endeavour to publish them in the Journal.

Once again, we hope to receive your submissions in good time and publish a cracking Pegasus Journal in early 2023.



Calling Notice Deadline 22nd October 2022

For more information please contact Richard Watt, SO2 Comms, RHQ PARA - 07836515306

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F. Arnhem 78

Many Branch members made the journey to the Netherlands this year to commemorate the 78th Anniversary of the Battle for Arnhem after a two-year absence.

As usual there were many events packed into a short period of time. This made it very hard for anyone to attend them all and a certain amount of time management was required. Here are a few photographs to show a quick summary of some of the events that took place. Thank you to Arjan Vrieze photography for the photographs.

The Needle



Lt Col (Retd) Gerrit Pijpers - Dutch RAF



Raymond Whitwell RASC and
Don Turrell 9th Cameronians

Airborne Monument Nassastraat

An annual service of Remembrance was held on Friday 16 September 2022 at the Remember September 1944 Monument at Nassauplein, Arnhem. This marks the area where the South Staffs Regiment and 2 and 3 Para fought during the battle.

It is also famous for being the area that Gen Urquhart hid from the Germans for 3 days. The house he hid in (No 14) can still be seen and has a plaque to remember him by.



The Wreath Laying Service



Lt Col Liam Cradden MBE

The commemorations continued over the weekend and hundreds turned out to attend several new events and the unveiling of new memorials.

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Airborne Plein – Arnhem



Mr Roger Beets - Organiser



The Colours and Standards march in



The Airborne Plein Service



Lt Gen A Harrison DSO MBE and Major A Jowett

Ginkel Heath, Ede



The Veterans



National Standard Bearer Tom Brown (3 Para)
and May Fowler RBL

The Veterans that attended this year were:

Geoff Roberts KOSB
Raymond Whitwell RASC
Roy Smith 4th Dorsets

A number of WW2 Veterans were also able to travel:

Tom Schaffer 13 Para
Don Turrell 9th Cameronians
John Dennett RN

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The Ginkel Heath Service



Lt Gen Andrew Harrison DSO MBE –
Colonel Commandant

Oosterbeek



Senior Padre Nigel Kinsella leads the service



Pegasus Pipes and Drums



Veterans, Next of Kin and others lay wreaths on behalf of their organisations

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The Colonel Commandant with his Commanding Officers and Polish Officers



The Flower Children of Arnhem
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Arnhem Veteran Geoff Roberts KOSB lays a wreath on behalf of the veterans with his daughter Claire

G. PRAFC Christmas Hampers 2022

The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity (Support our Paras) 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 02 DECEMBER 2022.

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.

Full details are available in the letter attached.

H. Regimental Charity Donations

The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity (Support Our Paras) have a number of fundraising events 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/>

I. Welfare Process

It is very important that Branches use the regimental welfare Team for any cases that are reported to them. We have had several cases recently that have escalated into quite complex cases and members of the Branch have

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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.

J. Memorial to Pte Parr 2 Para

In June of this year, at the fortieth anniversary of the Falklands War, the town of Lowestoft laid a commemorative stone to Pte David Parr (2 Para) at the Memorial Gardens in Belle Vue Park.

Pte David Parr, was killed by (friendly) artillery fire on the last day of the Falklands War in 1982 aged 19. He is buried in St. Michael's Church, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft. Thanks to Malcolm Rowlands and Adrian Butler for the photo and information.



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K. Changes to Branch Officials

All Branches are kindly reminded that any changes to their officials should be reported to RHQ Para. The details of the Secretary or nominated point of contact for the branch are displayed on the website to assist potential new members to get in touch and join the Branch. This information must be kept up to date. Please email Julia on: admin@prahq.com

L. Reporting Deaths and Injuries

Branches should report the death or serious injury of any known member of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.

Deaths will be recorded on the 'Last Post' list and a wooden cross planted in their memory at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey in November.

Serious injury notices will be passed to the Regimental Welfare Team for support as required.

Please email Julia on: admin@prahq.com

M. Diary Dates

Event information for 2022 is available on the website so please take a look:

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

If you have any dates for 2022/23, 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.

22 Oct 22	PRA EC Meeting	Port Talbot
4 Nov 22	St Lawrence Jewry	London (Loc: Holy Sepulchre)
10 Nov 22	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
13 Nov 22	Remembrance Day	Whitehall, London
25 Nov 22	Annual Officers Dinner	C & G Club, London
26 Nov 22	10 Para Reunion	London
10-12 Mar 23	2 Para Reunion	Blackpool
16-19 Mar 23	1 Para Reunion	Blackpool
24-26 Mar 23	3 Para Reunion	Blackpool
8 Jul 23	Regimental Commemoration Day	NMA

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

Paul Raison

Attachments:

1. PRAFC Christmas Hamper Letter
2. Christmas Hamper Application Form

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