



REGIMENTAL COMMEMORATION DAY 06th JULY 2024

INTRODUCTION

Good day, all PRA Branches and PFAOCA

I am sure you will all know from the monthly Newsletter, sent out by RHQ PRA, that the above event will once again be taking place at the NMA Alrewas. After contact with the National Secretary, Maj Retd Paul Raison, and with his authority, I have taken on the mantle to continue the evening dinner; which is now renamed, The Regimental Commemoration Dinner. Regarding the weekend there will be little change from past years.

- (A) RHQ Parachute Regimental Association (PRA) will control all aspects of the Regimental Commemoration at the NMA, including the lunch
- (B) I will undertake the evening dinner arrangements in the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry

Dinner administration

This dinner is family friendly and open to all PRA/PFAOCA Members, wife/partners and friends

In past years this dinner has mainly been concentrated on the Midlands Region Branches of the PRA; plus, it also served as the Annual Reunion Dinner for 23/144 PFAOCA. It is my aim now to extend this to all Regional Branches of the PRA nationwide, plus all other Airborne Associations.

On takeover, I was requested to look for a cost-effective hotel closer to the NMA. Due to the somewhat remote position of the NMA however, this was to prove problematic. To find a cost-effective hotel, that could accommodate a large number, within travelling distance of the NMA was impossible. I therefore made enquires at the Royal Court Hotel (RCH) in Coventry; the hotel we have used in the past. During my visit I was informed that some refurbishment was to take place and I was shown new bedroom furniture.

I have therefore taken out a contract, with the RCH, Coventry; which I feel is cost effective and acceptable in price and value, in todays present financial climate. After negotiations with the events team, I can confirm an agreement has been reached to **hold the costing of the hotel accommodation and messing the same as 2023**, plus a small reduction in the evening Remembrance four course dinner with wine. Therefore, the outcome is a very good deal, in my opinion. Details can be found below.

REGIMENTAL COMMEMORATION DINNER WEEKEND 05/07/JULY 2024

I'm pleased to report that the Regimental Commemoration dinner weekend will be continuing in 2024 and will once again take place at the Royal Court Hotel Coventry (RCH). I will be the main point of contact on behalf of RHQ Parachute Regimental Association and 23/144 PFAOCA. We look forward to seeing you all in July and of course those who will be joining us for the first time. If you are traveling any distance to attend the Commemoration at the NMA Alrewas, this is the ideal opportunity to make a weekend of the event and share time with old comrades from your past service time.

I have reserved a number of rooms (please note these booked rooms are for members attending the Remembrance dinner on a deal, and will be closely monitored).

Numbers are limited. So, book early to avoid disappointment

Members not attending the Remembrance Dinner are free to make their own arrangements with the RCH under normal hotel booking arrangements and would not get the PRA/PFA arranged deal.

The RCH, at the moment of writing is undergoing some refurbishment with an upgrade to rooms/bathrooms and new bedroom furniture.

The historic City of Coventry is approximately 3 miles from the hotel. During WW2, on the night of 14th November, the city suffered the most concentrated raid on a British city. The raid (Moonlight Sonata), resulted in a death toll of 554 in one night; due to the area being a main manufacturer of war equipment. In the morning, as help poured in, demolition crews had to be prevented from pulling down the remains of the Cathedral tower, as they didn't realize it had been leaning for over 100 years, the ruins can still be visited today.

Other places of interest are within travelling distance i.e., Warwick Castle, Royal Leamington Spa, Shakespeare's Stafford upon Avon & Ann Hathaway's Cottage; therefore, well worth considering making a long weekend of the event.

DINNER VENUE

The Royal Court Hotel (RCH), Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry CV7 8JG
I am sure all will be aware of the financial situation in the country at this moment in time, however I believe I have negotiated a good deal at the RCH, as stated in my opening remarks; the costings are held at the 2023 price. It will be easily seen, that if members are prepared to share a twin room the cost would be even less.

This is a one- two- or three-night package deal, individuals' preference.

Friday 05th July Single room, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast £75

Friday 05th July Double or Twin room, Dinner Bed & Breakfast (2 sharing) £90

Saturday 06th July Single room, Bed & Breakfast £65,
(Remembrance Dinner Night)

Saturday 06th July Double or Twin, Bed & Breakfast (2 sharing) £80
(Remembrance Dinner Night)

Sunday 07th July Single room, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast £75

Sunday 07th July Double or Twin, Dinner Bed & Breakfast (2 sharing) £90

Roy Hatch BEM TD Broadgrounds Gibraltar Lane Broadwell Warwickshire CV23 8EX

The above rates have been agreed with the hotel and are for PRA/PFAOCA Members who will be attending the Saturday night dinner. Members who live local and do not need accommodation, should not be put off attending.

ROOM BOOKINGS

Accommodation can be booked from **01st March** 2024 by phone direct to the hotel, contact number 02476334171; go to option 2 Events, and ask for Elka or Stacey. (Please note, events do not work at weekends)

On contact with the events team, confirm that you are booking for the PRA/PFA Regimental Commemoration dinner. No money will be taken from your account until you book in on arrival at the hotel. If you need to cancel, you can do so up to 48 hours before the event.

Remember places are limited, so its first come first served.

REGIMENTAL COMMEMORATION DINNER

DINNER BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE ON RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER

The cost of the dinner on Saturday evening is £38 per person, (this represents a small £2 reduction on last year's cost), and will include Starter, Main, Dessert, Cheese board, plus wine, and music entertainment.

Payment for the Remembrance Dinner can be made by one of the following methods

- (a) Cash in hand at any branch meeting, (Bedworth PRA)
- (b) Cheques made payable to PRA AGM Dinner, and posted to my home address Mr. R Hatch BEM TD, Broadgrounds, Gibraltar Lane, Broadwell Warwickshire CV23 8EX
- (c) Direct payment into the PRA AGM Dinner account, this being: -
Sort code 30-96-26 Account Number 48261668 (If using this method of payment please ensure that you put your name to the transaction)

No dinner refunds can be made after the 31st May 2024

The final cut off date for dinner payments is 16th June 2024

BALMORAL BAR SERVICE

I have negotiated with the hotel, a 'happy hour' drinks costing for members attending the dinner weekend. This 'happy hour' will cover the whole of the weekend from Friday to Sunday!

A wrist band will be issued to members on booking in at reception, (please wear this to gain the agreed costings)

£2.75 per pint of Tetley Bitter, Carlsberg or Somerset Cider

£3.75 per pint of Guinness

£2.75 Per 125 ml Glass of house wine

£2.75 per 25 ml shot of house spirits

All other drinks are served at full hotel price

HOTEL BOOKING IN RECEPTION

On booking in you will be given a welcome letter and a wrist band, to be worn when ordering drinks at 'happy hour' price.

Friday evening dinner will be in Jenny's Restaurant with 2 sittings: -

1st sitting 1830 hrs.

2nd sitting 1930 hrs.

On booking in you will be required to request your preference on dinner sitting. Once the first sitting is full you will have to accept the alternative.

DRESS

Friday is Casual.

Saturday Dinner night, Lounge Suit or Blazer, Regimental tie etc., medals are not required.

I am far too wise to tell our ladies how to dress.

HOTEL FACILITIES LEISURE & SPA

The hotel has a swimming pool, gym and coffee bar, all the facilities are open to PRA/PFA members booked into the hotel, all areas have easy accessibility to wheelchairs.

COACH RCH TO NMA

COACH BOOKING CAN BE MADE ON RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER

A coach will be available for all staying at the hotel, going to the NMA Alrewas on the morning of the Remembrance event Para/PFA, wife/partner friends; First come first served. It has been agreed there will be a small cost, £4 single person, £6 couple. All money collected will go to The Parachute Regimental Association.

Please confirm in your dinner returns, if you wish to travel by coach, travel money should be paid in advance along with your dinner payment ie:

- dinner plus single person coach travel would be £42,
- couple dinner plus coach travel would be £82,

Your name will then be registered for coach travel. Only those who have registered, and paid in advance, will be able to use the coach.

PARKING HOTEL

The hotel has ample free parking to accommodate our numbers. However, please remember to book in your vehicle on the monitors at the reception desk; failure to book in will result in a parking fine.

PARKING AT THE NMA

If you plan to travel by your own vehicle from the hotel to the NMA, please take note of the following;

- pre booked parking is £4
- parking not booked in advance is £6 on arrival

Contact number for the NMA is 01283245100

DIRECTIONS

The hotel has easy access from the M1, M6, M42, and M69. Coventry has a main line station with connections from most parts of the country. If flying, the nearest airport is Birmingham; which has a 15-minute direct train service from the Airport to Coventry.

NOTE

If members are planning to attend the PRA AGM, the hotel is approximately 35 minutes' drive from the NMA Alrewas. The National PRA Secretary will advise on the AGM itinerary and timings.

Over the next months I will be putting out reminders to this dinner event; therefore, should you have any question at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone.

Regards Roy
Capt Retd
07730977989

DINNER MENU

A SELECTION OF SPECIAL DIETARY MEALS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, PLEASE INFORM ME IF YOU HAVE ANY DIETARY NEEDS

STARTER, please indicate the starter you require with dinner payment

Prawn Cocktail with a Marie Rose sauce
Pate du Maison On Focaccia
Melon

MAIN COURSE

British Braised Beef with a red wine reduction
Served with a selection of seasonal vegetables & roast potatoes

DESSERT

Apple, Cinnamon & Wild Berry Crumble served with Custard

CHEESE BOARD

Selection of British Cheese with Crackers, Chutney & Fresh fruit

Freshly Brewed Coffee & Tea and Minted Chocolates