



THE
PARACHUTE
REGIMENTAL
ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER - January 2025

The Association for all
Airborne Forces

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all our members. This is a limited version of the newsletter due to the Christmas break. As we go forward into 2025, please remember that for this newsletter to work it needs your contributions. Please send any branch activity or news to me by the 25th of the month for it to be included.

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What's On:

Month	Date	Event	Location
January	31	Pass Out Parade	ITC Catterick
February	28	Pass Out Parade	ITC Catterick
March	14-16	2 Para Reunion	Blackpool
March	20-24	1 Para Reunion	Blackpool
March	28	Pass Out Parade	ITC Catterick
March	28-30	3 Para Reunion	Blackpool
April	26	4 Para Reunion	Leeds
May	10	Hardwick Hall	Chesterfield
June	4-8	Normandy 81	France
June	14	Regtl Comm Day NMA	Alrewas
June	14	Regtl Comm Dinner	Coventry
July	19	ABF North	Eden Camp

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEE THE EVENTS PAGE ON THE WEBSITE

What are you doing in 2025

Pegasus Yearbook 2024

The deadline for submissions for the 2024 Pegasus Journal year book has now past. The journal went down to only one issue per year due to rising costs and poor subscriptions.

Please use this monthly newsletter as a way of showcasing what you and your branch are up to. It will provide you with news of what other individuals and groups are doing and may give you some ideas of what you could do in terms of branch activity.

There have been many events and clubs formed from what has been seen in the newsletter and our members across the country have organised such things as breakfast clubs, walking groups, curry nights, quiz nights and dinners.

Last Post

Throughout the year RHQ Para collates the names of all those from the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces that pass away.

If you have details of your Airborne Veterans who sadly die, please send them to Alice Holland (Rank on discharge/retirement, initials, Surname + Post Noms, Regt/Corps/AB Unit. Submissions come from the whole spectrum of Airborne Units/establishments including the veteran Airborne family (PRA and Associations).

Pte	D	Allen	Glider Pilot Regiment	30/04/2022
Sgt	E	Allsopp	PCAU	26/01/2022
LSGT	D	Assenti	1st Guards Parachute Battalion	16/02/2022
Pte	B M	Ayres	2 PARA	29/12/2021
Pte	R D	Barrett	6th (Royal Welch) Para Bn	02/02/2022
Pte	D B	Baker	10 PARA	12/02/2022

Please send to Alice Holland: alice.holland108@mod.gov.uk or use the form on the website page: <https://theparachuteregimentalassociation.com/report-death/>

PRA Fundraising and Donations

Your continued support to the Regimental Charities is vital to the direct support of Airborne Veterans and their families, now and in the future.

Can I please ask that you consider PRA HQ when looking at who you donate your branch funds to throughout the year. The running costs **of events at branch level that we assist with have increased in recent years and are becoming harder** to support financially.

Staffing liabilities due to the ban imposed by the Civil Service is having a severe effect on our finances and ability to provide administrative support in some areas. We are not as fortunate as a number of the larger charities such as SSAFA and the RBL and our investments cannot support our annual activity. Please bear with us in this area until we can find a solution.

Applications for funding for events and activities are still welcome but will be subject to strict criteria. These must be supported by a business case, which is available from this office.

Thank you very much to those branches that have very kindly donated to assist us recently. Any donations in support to PRA HQ would be greatly appreciated.

Please keep an eye on the website for the latest up to date information on Airborne events across the country. If you have anything that needs advertising, please let us know

D Day Veteran Celebrates his 101st Birthday

Former paratroopers dropped in at Broughton House Veteran Care Village to help D-Day veteran Peter Belcher celebrate his 101st birthday. Peter, who has lived at Broughton House since April 2023, also received cards and greetings from pupils at nearby King David School.

Peter served in the Army during his time in the forces between 1937 and 1949, with the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry. On D-Day his company's objective was to capture and defend bridges over the River Orne and Caen Canal in Normandy – the latter was later known as Pegasus Bridge.

After that battle, Peter was deployed to the Belgian town of Bastogne to help with the Battle of the Bulge. He served in 17 countries in total and was awarded six military medals, including the illustrious Legion d'Honneur.



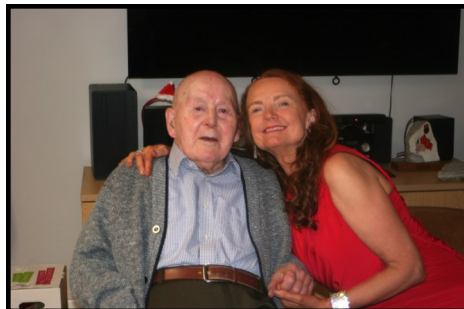
Members of the Parachute Regimental Association joined in the celebrations at Broughton House for his special birthday. Peter was applauded into the veterans' mess by family, friends, residents and staff. The guests were entertained by singer Sarah Dennis, who is known as the Veterans' Sweetheart.

Joe Jervis, also 101 years old moved into Broughton House in April, and served in the RAF as an aircraft engineer during World War Two at fighter airfields all over the UK. His role was to ensure the airframes and systems in aircraft, including the Spitfire, were ready for combat, and to repair any damage when they returned from operations. Peter Said, "When Joe moved in I felt like a spring chicken, as I was no longer the oldest resident at Broughton House".



Peter said: "It was nice to see so many people together to celebrate my birthday. It was a fun afternoon – I felt like I was 70 or 80 again! The children wrote me some lovely birthday cards – they even knew I was in World War Two. It was a really good day."

Peter, the youngest of 12 children, was born in Wantage but moved to Manchester after leaving the army. He was married for 55 years to Annie, who passed way in 2002. The couple had one son, David. Peter spent most of his working life on the railways as a wheeltapper.



Broughton House has cared for more than 8,000 veterans since it opened its doors to the ex-service community in 1916. It has recently been redeveloped into a complex with a 64-bed care home, including two 16-bed households dedicated to veterans with dementia, independent living apartments, an array of modern facilities, a museum, gym, hairdressing and barber's salon, and a restaurant and bar for residents.

For further information, please contact Nadia Moniz, brand and marketing manager at Broughton House: marketing@broughtonhouse.com or 0161 740 2737.

Norfolk and Waveney Branch

Members of the Norfolk and Waveney Branch had a busy few months in the run up to Christmas.

In November, they did their bit for the Poppy Appeal and raised the profile of the PRA by collecting at Norwich Train Station over 2 Saturdays. In the space of 10 hours they managed to raise just over £2100.00, an amazing achievement by all accounts. It must be something to do with the pulling power of the Maroon Machine!



The Branch collection teams



Members took part in the local Remembrance Day parade and enjoyed a well earned drink at the Wig and Pen afterwards.

The branch held their Christmas lunch held at The Wensum Valley Golf Club and Hotel on the 1st of December. As you can see from the photos below, it was a great success.



Tyneside Branch

The Branch held their Christmas Function in December, which was well attended by members and their friends and families. The Branch took the opportunity to present Jackie Richardson with a brooch for services rendered to the Branch whilst supporting her late husband Jimmy in his 11 years as Chair of the branch.

The President of the Branch, Keith Hall, was also presented with the first of the 2025 diaries that the branch will distribute with kind sponsorship from Pragmatique management consultants funding the costs.

A reminder that the Branch will not be holding a Branch meeting January 25 with the next meeting scheduled for 7 February 25, when they hope to welcome back all members and visitors.



Chair with President Keith Hall

Chair with Jackie Richardson



Branch Group Photo Christmas 2024

Meeting of The PRA Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) of The Parachute Regimental Association meets twice a year, normally in Colchester. The meetings allow branch business to be discussed from across the 11 regions and provides an opportunity for branches to advertise planned events, request funding and raise any concerns.

The meetings are held in April and October each year. The only other time the EC meets is at the Annual General Meeting at the National Memorial Arboretum in June/July each year.

The Chairman position is held by the Regimental Lt Col: Lt Col Liam Cradden.

The 11 members of the EC are as follows:

John Wilson	- North East and Vice Chairman
Paul Bryant	- Anglia
Dave Singletary	- Wales
Dave Smart	- South East
Terry Wood	- London
Chris Brooksbank	- Midlands
Vic Thorn	- South
Brian Black	- Scotland and NI
Tony Ellis	- South West
Mike Farrington	- North West
Chris Jackson	- Yorkshire

Their details can be found on the website and your regional secretary should be your first point of contact for any questions which arise within your branch.

The last meeting was held on Friday 4 October 2024 and the Record of Decisions for that meeting were distributed recently.

The Parachute Regimental Association is a totally separate organisation to The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity (Support Our Paras). Each is an individual charity with different trustees and objectives. While we work very closely together, our finances are not linked.

We are in the unfortunate position that we are no longer receiving the financial support of the Civil Service for our admin position and this post needs to be filled. This will sadly come at a cost to the PRA in the immediate future.

Any support to the PRA at RHQ Para would be very much appreciated and would help us to continue delivering the services we offer.

The Parachute Regiment Warrant Officers & SNCOs Dinner Club

The annual dinner is held every year at the WOs & SNCOs' Mess 1 PARA (SFSG) in St Athan. The RSM 1 PARA is trying to reach out to past members in order to boost attendance.

In order to renew membership and be included in the distribution list, please contact the Dinner Club secretary.

Jennie Pitt MBE – Hon Secretary. The Parachute Regiment Warrant Officers and Sergeant's (Past & Present) Dinner Club

J1 Office, Churchill Lines, MOD St Athan, BARRY, CF62 4NX

jennie.pitt163@mod.gov.uk Tel: 01446 784243 / 07989094169

Lynaghan Appeal - Update

Michael is due his next round of Lutetium-177 PSMA soon and we have been blown away by the outpouring of support we have seen for him and his family so far. We are now at over 40% of our target for his treatment, but could really do with your help to get that figure higher.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/lynaghanappeal>

We understand Christmas has just past and it is an expensive time of year, but anything you can donate towards Michael's appeal would mean the world to him and his family.

Could you send him a virtual pint and donate the cost to our appeal? Or, the cost of a coffee from your favourite provider. Any contribution would help make a difference.



Christmas Hamper Appeal

Every Christmas it has become a tradition for our charity to send a hamper to our veterans in need. These veterans are our Airborne brothers who may have previously been homeless, suffering with their mental health, are lonely and isolated or indeed suffering financially and in need of some support at this time of year.

Every hamper recipient is nominated by local Parachute Regimental Association branches and they include veterans of all ages, as well as a number of Chelsea Pensioners.

In 2023, the charity sent out 337 hampers, spending a total of £28,000. They are packed full of tinned food, biscuits, tea and coffee and many other things to help our veterans enjoy the Christmas period.

"I have just received a Christmas Hamper from yourselves, this is a lovely surprise. I would like to thank all concerned with this thoughtful gift, much appreciated. May you continue with your good works of supporting The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces. We veterans are proud to have been members of such an elite force."

This year, we are asking for your support to continue sending these wonderful gifts. Any donation, no matter how big or small, towards these hampers will be most gratefully received.

Support Our Paras Online Shop

Support Our Paras now have their own online shop. Please find attached to this newsletter the details on how to access their products.

The shop is run from here in Colchester and provides a number of items not available from other suppliers.

So if you are after Christmas cards or a limited edition Fight or Perish T-Shirt why not take a look.

For more details please click on the link: <https://supportourparas.org/shop/>



WELFARE NEWS

Welfare Process

It is very important that Branches use the regimental welfare Team for any cases that are reported to them. 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, if you require financial assistance please contact either:

SSAFA: 0800 260 6767 or use this link to find your nearest Branch: <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/get-help/find-local-branch>

or the RBL: 0808 802 8080 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.

For any other issues and advice please contact the Support our Paras Welfare on:
Laura McPhilemy, Head of Welfare. Email: HoW@supportourparas.org Tel: 07702 190685

or

Lisa Stapleton, Welfare Manager. Email: wm@supportourparas.org Tel: 07340 347136

Check out the website for your nearest Branch
theparachuteregimentalassociation.com



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