



THE PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER - July 2025

The Association for all
Airborne Forces

Remembrance Day 2025

Registration for the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph is now open. All those that have requested to march on Sunday 9 November will be registered with RBL next week. Anyone wishing to join us please take a look at the website events page.

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What's On:

Month	Date	Event	Location
July	4-6	ABF Day	Aldershot
July	5	Airborne Memorial Shelter Opening	Aldershot
July	6	Toot Baldon Air Crash 60th Anniversary	Aldershot Gsn Church
July	14	Walk + Talk Parade	London
July	19	ABF North	Eden Camp
July	23	Regimental Day	Colchester
July	25	Pass Out Parade	Catterick
September	18-21	Arnhem	Netherlands
October	23	Veterans Day	MOD St Athan
October	25	WO & Sgts Mess P & P	MOD St Athan
November	7	St Lawrence Jewry	London
November	9	Remembrance Day	Whitehall

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEE THE
EVENTS PAGE ON THE WEBSITE or FACEBOOK
PAGE**

Ad Unum Omnes

Registered Charity Number 214015

Happy 100th Birthday - Geoff Roberts

Geoff Roberts (KOSB) joined the army in 1942 and after training in Scotland he volunteered for Airborne Forces. He was posted to the 7th Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers as one of the replacements for a glider that had crashed. After Glider training at Brize Norton and on the Yorkshire moors and being briefed for several operations that were subsequently cancelled, he was one of the men who flew into The Netherlands as part of Operation Market Garden and was taken prisoner after the battle. Geoff celebrated his birthday with family and friends in Peterborough.

Geoff was awarded the MBE in the Kings birthday honours this year, very well deserved.



(Image: PA)



Other Images: Craig Allen

Hastings Air Crash 1965

On 6 July 1965 a Hastings aircraft took off from RAF Abingdon with a crew of six and 35 assorted service personnel for a parachute drop over RAF Weston on the Green.

After take-off, the pilot of the Hastings, from 36 Squadron RAF, experienced difficulties with the elevator controls.

Shortly after contacting RAF Abingdon control tower for a priority landing the aircraft climbed steeply out of control, stalled and crashed into a barley field at Little Baldon, Oxfordshire.

The aircraft burst into flames on impact and all 41 occupants on board were killed.

The passengers included eight RAF Parachute Jump Instructors; three NCOs and seven recruits from The Parachute Regiment; and a Gunner from 7th Parachute Light Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

At the time the accident was the third worst air disaster in the UK and resulted in the RAF grounding its entire Hastings fleet.

The subsequent investigation identified metal fatigue in the elevator attachment bolts as the cause of the crash.

A remembrance will be held as part of the Sunday service at Aldershot Garrison Church on Sunday 6 July 2025. All are welcome. We Will Remember Them



Normandy 81

This year's Normandy Commemorations took place over the period 5-7 June 25. Regtl Headquarters and the PRA took part in a number of commemorations led by the French authorities during this time. Events took place at Les Mesnil Bavant, Memorial Pegasus, Banneville, Ranville Crossroads, Ranville Cemetery, Breville les Monts, Merville Battery, Putot en Auge and Sannerville. The Revd Gavin Smith, the senior Padre from 16X took the majority of the services and quickly adjusted to the French way of doing things. The commemoration was a great success but unfortunately there were very few WW2 veterans in attendance. Here are a few photographs from the week:



Normandy 81 Continued ...



Regimental Commemoration Service - NMA

The Regimental Commemoration Service took place at the NMA on Saturday 14 June 25. The day was a great success and we had 250 registered for lunch and many more that attended. The service was led by Padre Jerry Sutton and Gen Ranald Monro was there as the senior officer on the day. The date of next years event is Saturday 25 July 2026.



The South-East Essex Branch

Members of the SE Essex branch attended a local fete organised by Benfleet Community Fayre. It was held on 7 June at Woodside Park Benfleet and attended by the local Air Cadets detachment as well as local business and organisations, including the scouts and cubs. It was well attended by the community as the sun was shining. A lot of money was raised for various charities, including our own. On the branch stand they had a number of deactivated weapons, helmets, webbing and parachute equipment. There was also a ferret scout car, a WW2 Airborne jeep and a long wheel base stripped down Land Rover. All of this went down well, especially with the kids. The branch has committed to supporting this and other events in the area in the future, flying the flag for The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.

Ian Maguire (Vice Chair)

Left to right Del Lazell (President), George King, Ian Maguire, Ian (Spike) Hunter and Paul Bryant (Regional



MBE Award

Glasgow and West Branch Secretary Terry McCourt paid tribute to his late wife Janice after being awarded an MBE in the Kings Birthday Honours List saying, "It's not just mine it's hers!"

Terry McCourt got the surprise of a lifetime with a trip to London to celebrate the King's Birthday Honours List award in Whitehall on Saturday June 14th 2025. Terry was awarded his MBE for his fundraising for veterans in Glasgow.

Since leaving the British Army, Terry has gone on to fundraise for SSAFA for 25 years by offering a hand of friendship to those in need of support

Terry credits his late wife Janice for helping him achieve his MBE a Most Excellent Member of the Order of the British Empire honour medal. The devoted couple were married for 47 years after being introduced by Janice's aunt and uncle when they were a pair of Glasgow teenagers.

Terry was just 19 and Janice was 17 and were on 'civvy street', when they had a chance meeting in Knightswood before he joined the Parachute Regiment.

Unfortunately, Janice sadly passed away last May and it is incredibly raw for the family of five who lived in Scotland and England. "It's not just mine, it's hers, she'll be partying in Heaven."

Congratulations from us all Terry



Durham Branch

We have the Durham branch on their normal trip to support our next generation of Paratroopers; branch members are there at every pass-off without exception. This time JJ Wilson our NE Secretary and Vice Chair of the PRA attended. Members mingle with the families and the troops. It's a great day with accolades from the Officer taking the parade, he always thanks the veterans from the PRA which is always a nice touch.



Also included are a couple of photos of the branch during the VE day celebrations. This was a fantastic effort by the guys and also the public who were more than generous. This was just one event that took place up here in Co. Durham (Consett). We collected lots for the charities involved.

Above: George Leslie

Right: Stuart Maltby

The Airborne veterans are always welcome at the pass out parades at ITC Catterick, so why not plan a branch trip there in the future



Royal Cornwall Branch Trebah Garden Military Day

The Royal Cornwall Branch once again along with Trebah Garden (former home of Maj Tony Hibbert MBE MC) hosted its annual Trebah Military Day on Saturday 31st May. Nearly 300 members, family and invited guests enjoyed a great day. Twelve Standard Bearers along with the Kernow Pipes & Drums were led by the Military vehicles Trust down the drive to the house to start the day's events, where SW Regional Cdr RN Commodore T Kirkwood took the Salute.

During the morning, we were entertained by the Kesson Tus Singers. Whilst over in the main reception area there were two displays of WW2 military equipment consisting of Home Guard/Secret Army by Garth & Sue Wearne and 12th (Airborne) Bn Devonshire Regt by Dr Stuart Blank. Both of these drew a lot of interest from guests and visitors to the Garden.

After a Pasty lunch it was down to the beach for the Drum Head and wreath laying service. Where the Lord Lt of Cornwall Col Sir Edward Bolitho led the laying of 30 Wreaths, this was followed by two of our Pegasus Ladies laying Bouquets on behalf of the Widows of Normandy & Northern Ireland, followed by our own Flower Children, children from military families.

From here it was round to the beach for the RNAS Merlin Helicopter which lowered a wreath into the sea. After a short break where the Kernow Drums entertained us, it was back up to the House transported by the military vehicles for those who couldn't walk or didn't want to walk up the steep hill. At the house we were entertained by the Bryher Boys singers whilst we enjoyed a very nice Cream Tea. The end of the day's events was brought to a finish by performing the Sunset Ceremony with Commodore Kirkwood once again taking the Salute.

The next day a gold ornate embraided epaulette was handed in to my Sarah who works at Trebah. It eventually made its way to Tom French our chairman who tried to reunite it with its owner. However, no one seemed to have lost it, in fact he was told by a RN Officer that it was nothing to do with the navy.

But with a little detective work whilst I was visiting Tom, we zoomed in on the Commodore's photo and there was the epaulette on his right shoulder along with his aiguillette. Now I wonder what his punishment should be for losing it? Our thanks to Adie Denyer for the words and photos.



Grampian Branch

Syd Stephen Standard Bearer presentation

On 11 June Grampian PRA branch vice chairman Bob Crocker presented this magnificent Ballantynes of Walkerburn Royal British Legion dressed standard bearer trophy (the Peter Hicks & Co Para version is no longer available) to Syd Stephen for long and dedicated service as Standard Bearer and committee member to The Parachute Regimental Association Aberdeen branch and the now Grampian PRA branch 2012-2024.

Syd has represented the PRA proudly at every parade and event that the branch attended over the years, and also carried the standard at Arnhem three times in his 12 years as our dedicated PRA standard bearer. There was not much else to say other than on behalf for the chairman Gary Haughton and the GPRA members a huge thank you to Syd for everything he's done for the PRA.

When ordering the magnificent trophy it was interesting to be informed that the founder Neil Ballantyne served with the Parachute Regiment and after leaving in 1990, Neil and his wife Michelle moved to the Scottish Borders and founded Ballantynes of Walkerburn.



ABF Scotland will once again be held in Dundee in 2026. The event has been kindly sponsored by the Tayside Branch, who did a fantastic job in its first year in 2024. Save the date: 18 July 2026. Details to follow

Tyneside Branch

Two events this month for the Tyneside Branch. The first was when members attended with the Airborne Forces Riders Branch who were on their Ride of Respect at the memorial and graves of those fallen in the Falklands War from the North Esat. Attendance took place at the memorial to Capt. Chris Dent 2 PARA in Whitley Bay and Pte Philip West 3 PARA in Gosforth where wreaths were laid. When in the cemetery in Gosforth the Chair and the Standard Bearer took the opportunity to visit the grave of Pte W Snowdon 3 PARA killed in Northern Ireland on 28 June 1976 by an IED.



On 13 June, the Branch ran their annual Falklands Commemoration at the White Swan Centre in Killingworth with the support of North Tyneside Council. The event was very well attended by local veteran associations together with His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, Ms Lucy Winskell OBE. The speaker this year was from the RAF and who served with 18 Sqn Chinooks.

Reminder for the next Branch meeting to be held on 4 July at the PTE Social Club, Millers Rd, Byker, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 2XP. This will be a social event with no formal meeting, free drinks and a raffle and a chance to catch up with old friends. All Airborne Warriors welcome from all branches near or far. If you are in the area and available pop in and see us.

Left: Branch Members Trev Davison, John Osborne, Jim Davey, and Bryon Backhouse at the Chris Dent Memorial 7 June 2025. **Below:** Tyneside and Durham Branch members at the Falklands Commemoration on 13 June 2025.



North Staffordshire Branch

The late Ted Martin ex 2 Para granddaughter Louise Ellams has always wanted to experience what it was like to parachute out of a plane like her grandfather.

So on Saturday 3 May 2025 she did a tandem jump and she was carrying Ted's Para badge with her, so that she felt he was with her.

Louise who works for the NHS also wanted to combine this with raising money for charity and the last count she made £1,300 for Dougie Mac our local hospice, well done Louise.

Mick Beaman



Rochdale Branch

The Rochdale Branch are having a summer Ball on Saturday 9 August at the Rochdale Masonic Hall, Richard Street, Rochdale, OL11 1DU. It will have a 3 PARA slant to it this year.

They have also negotiated reduced rates with a local hotel for guests. Further information can be obtained from their Secretary Terry Bowdell:
terrybowdell@yahoo.co.uk



The Masonic Hall, Richard Street, Rochdale by David Dixon, CC BY-SA 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons.

BIG July Walk + Talk

As part of the **BIG July Walk+Talk** push to connect members across the country, there will be a Central London Walk+Talk on **Monday 14 July, meeting at 14:00 hrs at Potters Field Park** and walking to Parliament Square.

This walk is scheduled for the same day as the Westminster Hall Debate following the recent Northern Ireland Veterans Petition.

The debate will start from 16:30 hrs and is expected to be well attended beforehand by members of the military community gathering in Parliament Square from 15:30 hrs. The Rolling Thunder Motorcycle veterans' group will also be in attendance.

Walk+Talk Details:

The Walk is open to any serving, veteran or family members. The walk will go from Potters Field Park (Bridge Theatre/former City Hall) to Parliament Square via London Bridge, The South Bank and then across Westminster Bridge. This is approximately 3 miles.

Those wishing to attend the combination of the walk and Parliament Square gathering are encouraged to wear **smart dress with headdress (berets) and medals**.

Meeting Point: Potters Field Park (Bridge Theatre/former City Hall). On the South Bank of the Thames, across the river from the Tower of London.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/3sGNop3XZDGbBsX88>

Timings

Meeting Time: Between 14:00 and 14:30 hrs

Walk starts: 14:30 hrs

Debate starts: 16:30hrs (limited access)

Dispersal from 16:45hrs

Debate concludes: 19:30hrs

For further information contact:
Robin 07876 220 305

This is an event open to all military veterans. *This is a Regimental Association (veteran) event. It is not an official RHQ or politically motivated one.* However, there is an expectation that all attending behave in an appropriate manner.



Petitions
 UK Government and Parliament

Petition
Protect Northern Ireland Veterans from Prosecutions
 We think that the Government should not make any changes to legislation that would allow Northern Ireland Veterans to be prosecuted for doing their duty in combating terrorism as part of 'Operation Banner'. (1969-2007)

Sign this petition

161,288 signatures

[Show on a map](#)
100,000


Parliament will debate this petition
 Parliament will debate this petition on 14 July 2025.
 You'll be able to watch online on the [UK Parliament YouTube channel](#).

England to England via Holland, Germany & Belgium' The Arnhem War Diaries of Major Frank Lindley, 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. An extraordinary first-hand account of the Battle of Arnhem, seen through the eyes of a no-nonsense front-line officer.

Major Frank Lindley, Officer Commanding Support Company, 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, kept a detailed and deeply personal diary during his captivity following the Battle of Arnhem. His entries provide a vivid, day-by-day chronicle of the battalion's movements, actions, and struggles — from departure at Somerby to the fierce fighting at Ginkel Heide and the Oosterbeek Perimeter, culminating in his wounding and captivity as a prisoner of war.

Frank Lindley's writing is direct, often dryly humorous, and always evocative. He captures not just military manoeuvres but the personalities, camaraderie, and courage of the men under his command. His words bring the battle — and its human cost — into stark relief.

This remarkable diary is enriched with biographical material outlining Lindley's journey from working-class roots in Doncaster and early service in the Scots Guards as an enlisted man, to his wartime commission and postwar military career across the Middle East, West Africa, and the British Army of the Rhine. A veteran of 25 years, Lindley's story is one of resilience, leadership, and integrity.

Lovingly compiled by his granddaughter, Jade Lindley, and Grahame Warner of Friends of The Tenth, this edition draws exclusively from Lindley's original wartime archive, entrusted to his family.

- A4 softback, 84 full-colour pages

- Over 50 rare photographs and operational maps

- Unpublished personal diary entries

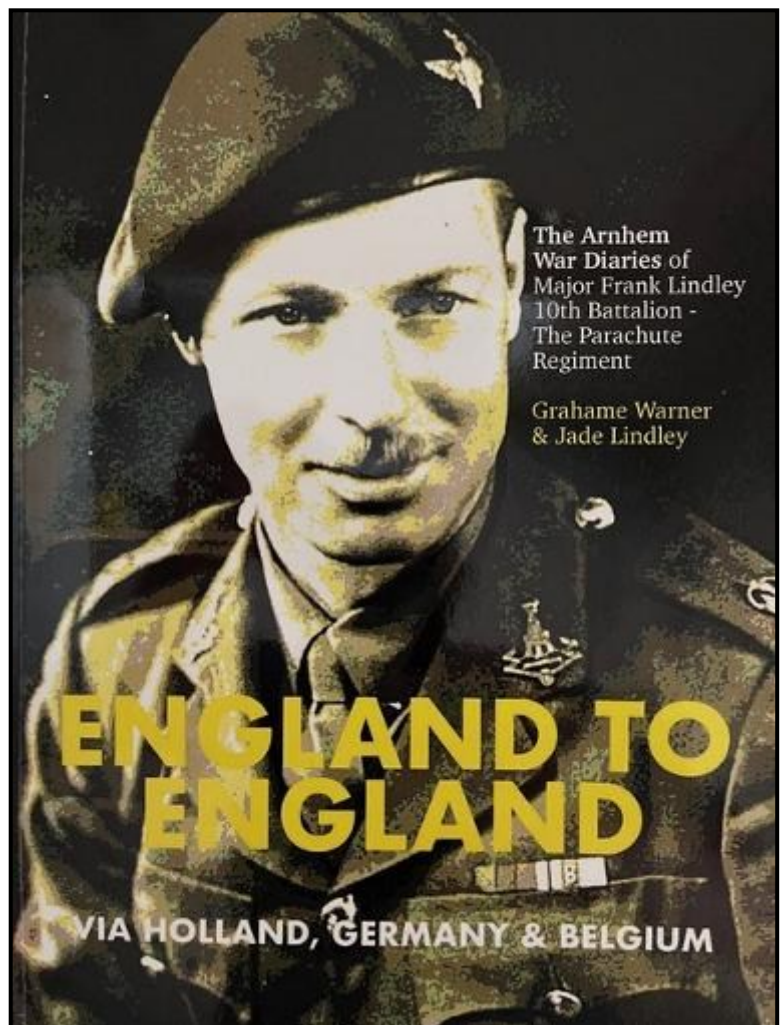
Annotated with historical context and commentary

A must-read for military historians, Arnhem scholars, and anyone interested in the personal experience of war.

100% of proceeds go to Friends of the Tenth

Price £15.00 plus postage & packing

Click this safe and secure link or visit the FOTT website to buy a copy: [England to England](#)



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 new St Michael collection is now available.

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

So if you would like to support the charity directly please take a look. They have an ever growing range of items and even Valentines cards for that special person in your life.

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



Affiliation Fees 2025 - Overdue

These are now overdue and branches will be notified individually if they have not paid. The annual Affiliation Fee is £60.

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. **A Reminder of the Benefits**

- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) permission to use the Regimental Logo on Branch Standards and letterheads.
- Full Public Liability Insurance and Branch Standard Insurance (new certificate issued in Apr 25 to all that have paid).
- Access to Regimental support for organised functions, i.e. Pony Mascot and associated Regimental assets (subject to availability).
- Support from the National Executive Committee and RHQ PRA on constitutional and branch management and membership matters.
- The ability to fundraise in support of the Branch, its members and branch activities.
- Receive Monthly Branch Newsletters and other correspondence.

The Parachute Regiment Warrant Officers & SNCOs Dinner Club

The annual dinner will be held on Saturday 25 October 2025 at the WOs & SNCOs' MOD St Athan. The RSM is trying to reach out to past members in order to boost attendance.

Details of this years event are below so please register your interest now.

If you have any issues with the form or becoming a member, please contact the Dinner Club secretary: Jennie Pitt MBE – Hon Secretary. Email: jennie.pitt163@mod.gov.uk or by post to:

The Parachute Regiment Warrant Officers and Sergeant's Mess (Past & Present) Dinner Club.
J1 Office, Churchill Lines, MOD St Athan, BARRY, CF62 4NX

The Parachute Regiment Warrant Officers' and SNCOs' Past and Present 65th Dinner



DATE
SAT 25 OCT 2025



ACTIVITIES & DINNER
10:00 – 17:00 & 18:00 – 23:30



LOCATION
St Athan

BECOME A MEMBER



ATTEND THE EVENT



Optional activities included during the day:

25m Range | Skills House Demo | Skills Tower Demo | Insight Room Tour

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. Branches should be aware that the donation of money to other charities and organisations must be in line with Charity Commission guidelines. The objects of The Parachute Regimental Association Charity must be met by anyone receiving payment.

Our Airborne veterans in need do not always benefit from financial support from some of the larger and better known charities. All cases are dealt with by the Support Our Paras Welfare Team and the allocation of funds generally falls to them. Please check with RHQ Para before choosing to donate to other charities.

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. We are very fortunate that some of the liability for some annual regimental events has now been taken up by Support Our Paras.

We do understand that some branches have very limited funds so thank you very much to those branches that have very kindly donated to assist us recently. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Website News and Events - [View Events Here](#)

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. We require the date, timings and as much detail as possible. This can be updated nearer the event date.

Events and activities can also be published on the PRA Facebook page for wider coverage, website and in this newsletter.

Please help us to support you.

Dementia UK

Dementia will affect one in two of us in our lifetime, whether by caring for someone with the diagnosis, developing it ourselves, or both. It is a complex, progressive condition that can be difficult to understand and too many families struggle to know where to turn to and who can answer their questions.

If you are caring for a person with dementia or concerned about potential symptoms, this session will help you understand the condition and how you and your family can live with it as well as possible. The Webinar will explore:

- The Types of dementia: Knowing what form the person is living with can help you understand what to expect and how to support them.
- Common Symptoms: From memory loss to communication difficulties to changes in personality.
- Maintaining Wellbeing: Tips to help the person with dementia and those who care for them to stay well.
- Medication: There is no cure for dementia, but for some types of dementia, medication can help with the symptoms.

The attached document and links look to explore this subject in some detail. If you need help now, please contact the free helpline to speak to an Admiral Nurse: 0800 888 6678 or email: helpline@dementiauk.org or Watch the Webinar (1 hr): [Watch Here](#)

Register your status with the NHS

The armed forces community should register their status with their GP.

Why does the NHS need this information?

- To understand the healthcare needs of the Armed Forces Community: Accurate coding helps the NHS build a better picture of the specific health requirements and challenges faced by this community.
- To ensure equitable access to care: Identifying individuals helps the NHS uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which aims to ensure that members of the Armed Forces community receive the same standard of, and access to, healthcare as any other UK citizen.
- To facilitate appropriate support and treatment: Being aware of your background can help healthcare professionals provide more tailored and relevant care, and signpost you to specific support services if needed.

To enable **potential prioritization for treatment where clinically appropriate**: In line with the Armed Forces Covenant, individuals with the correct coding may, subject to clinical need, be prioritized for treatment, particularly for conditions related to service.

Codes shown below but GPs should have access to them on their systems. Our members should inform their GPs of their code and ask GPs to add the details to their medical files.

General Practice SNOMED Codes

SNOMED CT Code	Name	Definition
753651000000107	Military veteran	Those who have served for at least a day in HM Forces, whether as a Regular or as a Reservist
988811000000102	Family of active serving member of the Armed Forces	Relatives (including through adoption) of Service members or Service partners that are: (i) living in the same household as the Service member. Service members might be required to temporarily live elsewhere, either for a set period of time or during the working week, due to postings or deployments. In such cases, where the relative would otherwise be living with the Service member (but for the fact the Service member is away for Service reasons) they are still to be considered a member of the Service member's household; or (ii) wholly or mainly financially dependent on the Service member or Service partner; or (iii) someone for whom the Service member or Service partner has assumed regular and substantial caring responsibilities, such as those with additional needs who may be otherwise unable to care for themselves
702348006	Active duty military	Individuals currently serving as members of the Naval Services (including the Royal Navy and Royal Marines) Army, Royal Air Force.
933041000000109	Armed Forces Reservist	Members of one of the volunteer reserve forces (the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Marines Reserve, the Army Reserve and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force) or the ex-regular reserve forces (the Royal Fleet Reserve, the Regular Reserve and the Royal Air Force Reserve).
844341000000104	Dependant of former serving member of British Armed Forces*	The immediate family of a military veteran. This is defined as spouses, civil partners and children for whom they are responsible but where appropriate can extend to parents, unmarried partners and other family members.

*Request to be submitted to amend 'Dependant' to 'Family'

SUPPORT OUR PARAS

Welfare Process



It is very important that PRA Branches use the SUPPORT OUR PARAS 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.



Serving Personnel, please contact your Unit Welfare Officer (UWO) and/or Medical Officer (MO).

Serving Personnel, for those needing career advice contact: Nick Thorogood, Careers Transition Officer (CTO)

✉ CTO@supportourparas.org
☎ 07944 558780

Veterans, please contact: Lisa Stapleton, Welfare Manager

✉ WM@supportourparas.org
☎ 07340 347136

Mental health support and advice please contact: Laura McPhilemy, Head of Welfare

✉ HoW@supportourparas.org
☎ 07702 190685

Financial Assistance Process:

Step 1: Contact SUPPORT OUR PARAS Welfare Team
✉ WM@supportourparas.org
☎ 07340 347136

Step 2: Once needs are established a referral will be completed to a case working organisation, RBL or SSAFA.

Step 3: An allocated caseworker will start an application for assistance, known as 'Form A'.

Step 4: Completed Form A, and any attachments is sent electronically to military charities, including SUPPORT OUR PARAS, for consideration.

Step 5: Successful grants are issued swiftly back to case working organisations for onward payment.

Step 6: Urgent grants can be made on the same day if required.

Step 7: The process is both confidential and transparent, providing an audit trail.