



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 2021

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. Last Call - The Parachute Regimental Association Gala Dinner
- B. Regimental Charity Donation
- C. Remembrance Day – Sunday 14 November 2021
- D. PRAFC Christmas Hampers
- E. Pegasus Journal Submissions 2022
- F. Welfare Process
- G. Pangbourne Memorial Garden
- H. Guards Para Memorial Dedication
- I. City of Liverpool Freedom Roll of Associations - Liverpool Branch
- J. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect 2021

Events

- K. Diary Dates

A. The Parachute Regimental Association Gala Dinner

This is the last call for the Dinner being held over the weekend 15-17th October 2021, at The Royal Court Hotel Coventry, CV6 2EJ. The event is open to all Branches of the Association and will provide a great opportunity to get together with family and friends after a long period of not being able to do so.

There are one, two and three night packages available to those attending.

Friday: 15 Oct Single Occupancy Dinner, B&B. £70, double/twin occupancy £95
Saturday: 16 Oct Single Occupancy B&B £55, double/twin occupancy £70
Sunday: 17 Oct Single Occupancy Dinner, B&B £50 double/twin occupancy £60

If your plans change and you need to cancel, you can do so up to forty-eight hours before the event. The cost of the dinner is £35 per person and includes a three course meal with wine and entertainment.

Full details are available in the attached document.

The point of contact for this event is John Carey.

Tel: 07766724934.

Email: Jmc9365@msn.com

B. 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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 214015

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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.

C. Remembrance Day – Sunday 14 November 2021

This year's Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph will take place on Sunday 14 November 2021.

Applications recently re-opened for a period of time and we now have 139 people registered to march at the Cenotaph this year. Tickets will be issued in October and distributed to those that registered or emailed if an address was provided with your registration.

Please note that if you did not register and plan to travel on the day anyway, you may not gain entry to Horse Guards Parade and Whitehall.

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 Her Majesty The Queen arrives at the Cenotaph
- 1100 Two Minute Silence
- TBC March Past Starts

D. PRAFC Christmas Hampers

Support our Paras, The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity, 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 pro forma is to be filled in completely, regardless of method of delivery, and returned by FRIDAY 03 DECEMBER 2021. 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.

E. Pegasus Journal Submissions 2022

Please send your photos and reports to this email address by the 30th November 2021:

PJE@supportourparas.org

We would like your report to be around 350-500 words in the form of a .doc file in Arial Font 12.

Photos – please only send .jpeg in size 1-3 Mb, attach these images to your email. Please do not drag them into the body of the email as it affects the file size.

Last Post – Please continue to keep in touch with the Association so that we can add the names of Airborne Comrades who have died to the list in Pegasus Journal.

F. Welfare Process

For serving personnel please contact your Unit Welfare Officer (UWO) in the first instance for any welfare support.

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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: 01206 817103

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. Pangbourne Memorial Garden

A plaque to commemorate those that were lost during the Falklands War in 1982 was recently installed at the Pangbourne Memorial Garden. An annual Tri-Service event is held in Pangbourne to commemorate this.



H. Guards Para Memorial Dedication

The dedication of The Guards Para Association Memorial (Guardsmen of the Sky) will take place at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) on Friday 8 October 2021 at 1200 and will be conducted by Canon Alan Hughes. The founder of the GPA, Major General Sir Robert Corbett KCVO CB will carry out the unveiling. There will be a full dedication service lasting about 40 minutes, supported by the band of The Coldstream Guards.

The event will be supported by senior Household Division personnel, and Regt Lt Cols and COs. The Colonel Commandant of The Parachute Regiment the President of the SAS Association, CO 3 PARA and 6 (Gds) PI (subject to their FOE) will also be invited.

It is very important that they know numbers that will be attending are attending to arrange a suitable reception after the dedication. Please respond, using the contact details below if you do wish to attend.

The information required is as follows:

- Name
- Number in party
- Any special requirements re diet - i.e. vegetarian
- Chair for the service – the majority will remain standing

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- Transport from the car park at the NMA to the memorial – the NMA will provide (at cost to the GPA)
- Any other information that pertains to your particular needs for the dedication

Please let me know by email, phone/voicemail/text

jimheycok@gmail.com

Mob: 07825 444366

I. City of Liverpool Freedom Roll of Associations - Liverpool Branch

I am delighted to inform you that the Liverpool Branch of The Parachute Regimental Association has been added to the list of organisations and institutions of the City of Liverpool Freedom Roll of Associations.

The Honorary Freedom of the City of Liverpool can be traced back to the beginning of the 13th Century when Burgesses enjoyed equal trading rights and the exemption of certain dues and customs. However, since 1835, elected municipal councils meant that freemen were stripped of practically all of their privileges.

The Honorary Freedom of a Borough Act of 1885 empowered local authorities to confer the Honorary freedom upon persons of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the city or borough. However, this made no provision for organisations and institutions to be similarly honoured.

In March 1991, Liverpool City Council created the Freedom of Roll Association and Institutions to include organisations who had a long and significant connection with the city, like the Honorary Freedom of Liverpool, it is the highest honour the City can bestow. Armed forces are granted Freedom Right of Entry of the City of Liverpool and the right on all ceremonial occasions of exercising the privilege by marching “with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed” if applicable.

This honour was granted to the Liverpool Branch of The Parachute Regimental Association at the beginning of 2020. Sadly, due to the pandemic, the presentation of the scrolls has been delayed until the 24 Oct 21 and instead of the Town Hall it will be given at Liverpool Parish Church, this is because again due to Covid and the Town Hall has a very large back-log of activities to clear.

Congratulations to the Liverpool Branch on achieving this status.

J. Airborne Riders – Ride of Respect 2021

Congratulation to the Airborne Riders who have recently completed their Ride of Respect. Pictured below at one of their stop overs. A full report is attached.



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EVENTS

K. Diary Dates

Event information for 2021 is available on the website so please take a look:

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

If you have any dates for 2021 please let me know at the earliest opportunity so that they can be added to the diary. Information for events in 2022 can be sent to include on the website forecast of events. Full details of events should be sent when available and updated accordingly.

17-19 Oct 21	PRA Dinner	Coventry
24 Oct 21	Liverpool Branch Freedom of Association	Liverpool
12 Nov 21	St Lawrence Jewry	London
14 Nov 21	Remembrance Day	Cenotaph, Whitehall

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

Paul Raison

Attachments:

1. PRAFC Christmas Hampers letter and proforma.
2. 2021 Airborne Riders - Falklands Ride of Respect

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