



REGIMENTAL COMMEMORATION DAY 08th JULY 2023

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.

In past years John Carey has been involved with the Regimental Commemoration, the lunch and the arrangements of an evening dinner. John, after 10 years of involvement in this event has now stood down and will be spending more of his time in Spain. I am sure we all owe him a great deal of recognition and thanks for all that he has done.

I have worked with John for 5 years on the evening dinner, therefore 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 I have renamed, The Regimental Commemoration Dinner. Regarding the weekend there will be little change from past years

- (A) RHQ Parachute Regimental Association 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 Reginal Branches of the PRA nationwide.

On takeover, I was requested to look for a cost-effective hotel closer to the NMA, however, due to the somewhat remote position of the NMA this was to prove difficult. To find a cost-effective hotel, that could accommodate a large number, within east traveling distance, proved problematic. I therefore made enquires at the Royal Court in Coventry, the hotel we had used in the past; during my visit I was informed that some refurbishment was to take place and I was shown new bedroom furniture.

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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. Details can be found below.

REGIMENTAL COMMEMORATION DINNER WEEKEND 07/09/JULY 2023

I'm pleased to report that the Regimental Commemoration dinner weekend will be continuing in 2023 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 booked a number of rooms (please note these rooms I have booked are for members attending the evening meal on a deal and will be closely monitored).

Numbers are limited. So, book early to avoid disappointment

Members not attending the evening 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 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. (Moonlight Sonata) The raid 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 realise 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.

This is a one- two- or three-night package deal

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

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

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Saturday 08th July Single room, Bed & Breakfast £65, Dinner Night
Saturday 08th July Double or Twin, Bed & Breakfast (2 sharing) £80 (Dinner Night)
Sunday 09th July Single room, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast £75
Sunday 09th July Double or Twin, Dinner Bed & Breakfast (2 sharing) £90

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.

REGIMENTAL COMMEMORATION DINNER

The cost of the dinner on Saturday evening is £40, per person (this represents a small £5 rise on last year's cost) and will include Starter, Main, Dessert, cheese board, plus wine, and music entertainment.

Payment 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 ensure you put your name to the transaction)

No dinner refunds can be made after the 16th June 2023

The final cutoff date for dinner payments is 30th June 2023

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 through 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

ROOM BOOKINGS

Accommodation can be booked from 20th January 2023 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 you are booking for the PRA/PFA Regimental Commemoration dinner, confirm your room requirements, have your credit card to hand; no money will be taken from your account until you book out on the day of departure. If you need to cancel you can do so up to

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48 hours before the event, however failure to cancel, in the appointed time period, full payment will be taken from your account.

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

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 require to request your preference on dinner sitting
Once a 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.

PARKING

The hotel has ample free parking to accommodate our numbers.

DIRECTIONS

The hotel has easy access from the M1, M6, M42, and M69 plus Coventry has a main line station with connections from most parts of the country.

NOTE

If members are planning to attend the PRA AGM the hotel is approximately 35 minutes' drive from the NMA Alrewas. The National 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