



The Parachute Regimental Association
Aldershot Branch
Newsletter



01/2013 **Charity Number 1125551** **Jan 2013**

Monthly Meeting The next Monthly Meeting will take place on **Friday 11th January at 2000hrs in Malta Barracks**. Please ensure that all PRA members park their vehicles on the edges of the parade square and leave their Aldershot Branch membership cards on the dashboard with their name visible. The meeting after this will be held on Friday 1st February 2013.

Bar Opening The bar will be open in January on Friday 11th from 2000hrs – 2359hrs, **Times** Friday 18th from 2000hrs – 2359hrs and Friday 25th from 2000hrs – 2359hrs. A free Pool Table, Bar nibbles, Television and a good atmosphere await you. Please note that fresh ground coffee is available for those who have to drive or would like an alternative drink.

Martin Vokes I have just been informed that Branch member Martin Vokes passed away yesterday at the age of 92. We do not have any funeral details at this time. If any member wishes to attend his funeral can they please contact the secretary and he will notify you as soon as details are received.

New Members There was one new member last month, John Guineay ex 1 Para 1951-53. Welcome to the Branch, John.

BAFC 10 Miler It was raining when everyone assembled outside the Traf to listen to the safety brief given by Tommy Simpson. Despite the bad weather 186 people and 10 dogs had turned up and were in good spirits as they set off. The scenery has changed from last year as they made their way along the walkway between the new Travelodge hotel and the new cinema. It was then past the Morrison's supermarket and into Wellington Avenue. As in past years, many car drivers sounded their horns and waved as they drove past. Crossing the Farnborough Road they entered the training area near Sunny Hill. It was after this point that the group started to stretch out, as they made their way to Flagstaff Hill.

Flagstaff was the first rest point and this allowed the not so fit people at the back to catch up. Whilst they were on top of the hill, Branch member Don MacNaughton gave a brief history of why the army came to Aldershot and how they used the land in front of them. After a twenty minute stop they made their way towards Long Valley crossing over the Bourley Road. In spite of the heavy rain over the previous days the ground was still firm in many places. There were of course some large puddles on the way. One bright spark shouted out "In my day we had to run through the water". At this point he proceeded to run through the waste high water much to the amusement of all those present.

The second rest area was next to the bridge over the Basingstoke canal. It was at this point that scoff was provided by Garry Grant who owns the Traf and Queen Hotel. As they all stood in line waiting to be served they were surprised to find out that one of the ladies serving them was Betty Hermsen, who is the landlady of the Uni Bar in Arnhem. The final leg of the walk took them past Browning Barracks and ended up in the Military Cemetery. A service was held at the Falklands memorial and the Op

Banner memorial. It was then back to the Traf for a very social evening. Everyone was grateful that the radiators in the Traf were on when they got back. Thanks must be given to the British Airborne Forces Club for arranging the event and to Garry Grant for providing the food. See page 3 for photos.

Christmas Ball

Eighty-eight members and guests attended the Christmas Ball. A full report and photos will appear in the next newsletter.

Phil Darley

Branch member Phil Darley has informed me that he is taking part in the H4H Rally 2013. He has the team number 30 and the team name is "TeamVenom4x4" and his son has supplied the Land Rover . He has to raise £1,500 before he can start the rally which is from 15th – 29th June. If any member would like to support this very worthwhile cause please go online. The online links are below. If you do not have internet connection and would like to donate please contact the secretary.

The online charity link is:

<http://www.bmycharity.com/TeamVenom4x4>

Venom4x4 website is:

<http://www.venom4x4.co.uk/>

Main 4x4 Rally page is:

<http://www.bmycharity.com/H4H4X4Rally2013>

Please see the flyer on page 4 for further details.

Year Planner

I have attached a copy of next year's year planner. I have added all of functions that we are aware of at this time. We are looking at adding some trips next year and we will notify you as soon as we have further details. If any member knows of any other functions that is not mentioned can they please inform the secretary.

Bob Myers

It was mentioned at the last monthly meeting that Bob Myers had passed away in Pattaya, Thailand a few weeks ago. Although he was not a member of the Aldershot Branch, many of the members present asked if his burial would be in Aldershot. After contacting Barry Thomson who lives in Pattaya, I have been informed that his funeral was held locally and over 70 people attended.

Stuart

10 Mile Walk



Tommy Simpson gives the safety brief with the rain coming down



On the way to Sunny Hill



Striding out to Flagstaff Hill



This photo looks familiar, it's the bottom of Flagstaff



Betty Hermsen the landlady of the Uni bar in Arnhem serves the scoff



The assembled walkers stand in the rain during the service



Local Team Enters the Help for Heroes 4x4 Rally 2013

Berkshire based Venom4x4 has entered a team in the 2013 H4H 4x4 European Rally. **TeamVenom4x4** consists of three members of the Darley family from Shinfield, nr Reading in Berkshire. Team member 1 is Phil Darley (a retired IT project Manager and H4H Volunteer local coordinator for Berkshire), Team member 2 is Ben Darley (owner of Venom4x4 - the Land Rover parts, servicing and LR bespoke build specialists). The third team member is Tony Darley (currently studying Music Technology at university). The HELP FOR HEROES EUROPEAN 4x4 RALLY 2013 follows the path and tells the story of the Allied Invasion through Europe and includes parts fabled by the Band of Brothers book and television series. As young men, who knew extraordinary bravery and extraordinary fear, the Allied Forces landed in France early on D-Day morning – 6th June 1944. The liberation of Europe had commenced.



The event will start at Noon on Saturday 15th June 2013 at Littlecote House Hotel.

in North Wiltshire. After using byways on Salisbury Plain we will then travel to Portsmouth to embark on the ferry over to France. This 3200km expedition will encompass 6 European countries over a period of 12 days; concluding in Bavaria, Germany. This non-speed touring assembly, will be part military history tour (including museums etc), fun activities, part off-road driving and part club-type social, open to road-legal 4x4 vehicles. The whole focus is the raising of funds for the event's chosen charity, HELP FOR HEROES.

In addition to Normandy, the H4H Rally route will visit the Market Garden and Rhine offensives at Arnhem, Holland, where on 17 September 1944, in the largest airborne operation ever seen thousands of paratroopers descended from the sky by parachute or glider up to 150 km behind enemy lines.

Our route moves south, to Bastogne in Belgium where in the coldest winter for decades, the Germans made a final push – the Battle of the Bulge.

Towards Germany, the rally routing is via the Alsace region of France and its Maginot Line fortifications, then onto Dachau and its horrors of war. We end our journey at Hitler's "impenetrable" Eagle's Nest at Berchtesgaden.

TeamVenom4x4 hopes to raise at least £5000 for the Help for Heroes charity. To donate please visit our online donation webpage:

<http://www.bmycharity.com/TeamVenom4x4>

For further information contact Phil Darley on 07881 794 664 or email phil.darley58@gmail.com

<http://www.h4hrally.org/>

