



**The Parachute Regimental Association**  
**Aldershot Branch**  
**Newsletter**



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**01/2014**

**Charity Number 1125551**

**Jan 2014**

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**Monthly Meeting**

The next monthly meeting will take place on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 the monthly meeting held on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014**. Will all members ensure that they close the gate after entering and leaving the Barracks.

**Bar Opening Times**

The bar will be open in January on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> from 2000hrs – 2359hrs and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> from 2000hrs – 2359hrs. The bar will be closed on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 31<sup>st</sup> due to bar staff being on holiday. 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.

**New Members**

We would like to welcome back Mark (Geordie) Harvey who has rejoined the Branch after moving back into the area.

**P Company 10 Miler**

The British Airborne Forces Club organised another fantastic weekend. People started arriving on the Thursday and Friday evenings. The weather was very good on Saturday 24 November as over 240 people assembled at 9.30am outside the Traf. After the safety brief they made their way past all of the new café's and up the steps next to the new Morrison's Supermarket. It was then a short walk along Wellington Avenue and left into the Farnborough Road. Thankfully they all managed to cross the Farnborough Road, otherwise Health and Safety would have got involved. The group soon spread out with the faster, not necessary the younger, people going ahead. After regrouping on top of Flagstaff they set off and crossed the Bourley Road and headed to Long Valley. Upon reaching Miles Hill they turned right and followed the Fleet Road until they got to the Claycart car park. The scoff was ready when they arrived at the bridge over the Basingstoke canal as well as a brew. Once fed and watered they set off along the bank of the canal and emerged next to Browning Barracks. Many cars tooted as they walked along Alison's Road. Crossing the road at St Omer Barracks it was down the hill to the Military Cemetery. The service at the cemetery is simple but poignant. Flowers were laid on the Falklands and Northern Ireland Memorials and on many of the Airborne graves. The rain arrived just as the service finished so it was back to the Traf. A great evening was had by everyone. At 8pm a person walked into the Traf who hadn't been back since he left the Army. That person was Dave (Creepy) Cremins, ex 3 Para, who I am sure many of you will remember. Many thanks must go to the BAFC for organising this event.

**Christmas Ball**

Another fantastic Christmas Ball was held in Potters International Hotel and a full write up and photos will appear in the next newsletter.

**Branch Standard Bearer**

The Branch require a member who is willing to take on the post of Branch Standard Bearer. Full training will be given to any member prepared to take up this position. Please contact the secretary if you would like further information.

**National PRA Facebook Page**

The National PRA now has a Facebook page which is up and running at: <https://www.facebook.com/prahg> and if you haven't already, I would be most grateful if you could like the page yourselves – if you have a Facebook account of course – and spread the word around to everyone you can think of. I would like to be able to put lots of information on there about what we all do and the events coming up, plus details of memorial services, commemorations etc. I also hope to put out information about the 70th anniversary events for next year. However I can't do any of this without your help! If we can get some new members for the Association and the branches from this it will be well worth all the effort.

Kind Regards  
Sandy Milbank

**Bob Hilton**

Congratulations must go to Bob Hilton on his new appointment as Assistant Curator at the Airborne Museum at RAF Duxford. There is no doubt that the people who will benefit most are all those who intend to go to the museum in the future.

**Year Planner**

I have attached a copy of the Year Planner 2014 along with this newsletter. If any member is aware of any event that has been omitted will they please notify the secretary.

**Airborne March Arnhem 2014**

The organisation and planning for the Airborne March weekend starts in January. To assist in the planning will all members who would like to attend next year's event which is being held from Thursday 4 till Sunday 7 September please inform the secretary. We are still waiting for the cost of the stay in the Dreyeroord Hotel but it will be in the region of £250 and the cost of the campsite stay will be £125. Both costs are for the four days and will include the Coach and Ferry, Hotel and Campsite, Airborne tour on the Friday, the entry costs for the march and the lunchbox home on the Sunday. Please note that this is not the Commemoration weekend which is from 19-21 September. The secretary has to ensure that enough places are booked on the coach to ensure that all the costs will be covered.

**Para's 10 Race Aldershot**

Please note that there will be no Official Para's 10 race in Aldershot next year due to operational duties and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations.

**Christmas and New Year Greetings**

The Chairman Iain Rodgers would like to wish all members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. The Branch has had another busy year and with the 70<sup>th</sup> Commemorations next year it will be even busier. Apologies as this message should have gone out in the December Newsletter. Blame the secretary!

*Stuart*

# P Company 10 Miler



The crowd at the start



On their way



Tommy Simpson coming up Falgstaff



Even St George made it to the top



Long Valley – It brings back memories



Dennis Devey enjoying the scoff



The service in the Military Cemetery



Laying flowers on the Falklands graves

