



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> February 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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

## Bar Opening Times

The bar will be open in January on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> from 2000hrs – 2359hrs, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> from 2000hrs – 2359hrs and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> from 2000hrs – 2359hrs. Please note that the bar will be closed on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February due to the 10 Para reunion. 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

There were no new members last month.

## Martin “Paddy” Vokes

“**Paddy**” was born in Tipperary, Ireland and joined the British army in 1944. He joined the newly formed SAS unit and was sent behind enemy lines in Italy during the war. After the war the SAS were disbanded, so he joined 2 Para and he also spent time with 1 and 3 Para. He was sent to Palestine from 1946-48 and was also in Cyprus during the troubles. He jumped into Suez with 3 Para during the Suez Crisis in 1956. He was awarded the Italian Star, UN Medal Cyprus, GSM and the Long Service and Good Conduct medal. He retired from the army in 1966 with the rank of C/Sgt after 22 years service. After leaving the army he joined the Post Office until he retired. Martin died on Thursday 20 December 2012 at the age of 92. May he rest in peace.

## Christmas Ball

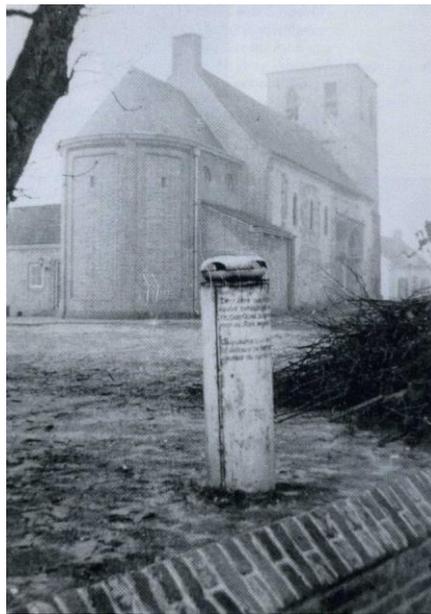
Eighty-eight members and guests attended the Christmas Ball which was once again held in the ballroom of Potters International Hotel. All those attending arrived early and enjoyed a drink at the bar. The drinks station and raffle station were soon inundated with people ordering wine for the table or buying raffle tickets. There were a few special prizes on offer this year, which were eagerly viewed. The piper then piped everyone into the Ballroom. Having checked the seating plan they all made their way to their tables. After grace they all took their seats and enjoyed a superb meal, which was washed down with a few glasses of wine and beer.

After the meal it was onto the dance floor. I don't know if this was to lose a few of the calories that they had just added. The raffle was drawn during a fifteen minute break. Prior to the raffle it was announced that we had a “Birthday Boy” in our midst. A special cake had been made by Gill Rashbrook which was presented to Pete Maxfield by Peter Richens after a Happy Birthday had been sung. The people with winning tickets were then asked to select an envelope to discover what prize they had won and I am pleased to say that the four special prizes were 1 bottle of 2 Para Falklands Port (Jan Maxfield), 1 bottle of 3 Para Falklands port (Maurice Markey), a Falklands 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Decanter (Julia Stevenson) and 2 bottles of Hartenstein Airborne wine (Laura Hill). All of the other prizes were

gratefully received. The rest of the evening was either, spent on the dance floor or socialising at the tables. Please see page 4 for photos.

### Old Church Oosterbeek Arnhem

Memorial stone pillars have been erected all over Arnhem at the various notable locations of importance. A plaque was then positioned on the pillar explaining what happened at that place. Bob Hilton has sent me two photos of the Old Church at Oosterbeek. The first one was taken in 1946 and shows a supply container mounted in the ground with wording written on the side. The second photo shows one of the memorial stone pillars. You will note that they are both in the same location. Bob mentioned that the supply container may have given the council the idea for the memorial stone pillars. I wonder what happened to the supply container.



### The Official Para's 10 miler

Founded by WO1 JJ Wilson, The PARAS'10 was hosted by The Parachute Regiment in Aldershot 1982 - 1993. Since the Paras left Aldershot in 1993, this legendary event was dormant until it was revived by Major Sam McGrath in 2008 in Catterick, North Yorkshire. Due to its success in Catterick the race was taken to the home of 16 Air Assault Brigade in Colchester in 2012 and will be introduced in Aldershot, home of The Paras in the 70s and 80s in Mar 2013. It is regarded as The Ultimate 10 Mile Endurance Race and is managed by the Parachute Regiment Charity and serving soldiers of the Parachute Regiment. The primary aim of raising funds for The Parachute Regiment Charity whilst providing a challenging and enjoyable event remains key to the events success. This year's race will take place at **11am on Sat 9 March**. You can either tab with a 35lb bergen and boots or you can run the distance in running gear. Members can either take part as individuals or as a member of a team. The teams are made up of four people with the first three to count and the race is open to civilians and military. Prizes are awarded for 1st Male/Female, Male V50/Female V40, Team and U19 TAB. The minimum age for entry is 16 with **no upper age limit**. The cost of entry is £30 per person with all money going to the Parachute Regiment Charity. If there are any members who can get a team of four (running only!) together or if any member would like to join a Branch team please contact the secretary. Refunds are not granted in this race but you can transfer your entry (without charge) to another runner or do it on race day at registration.

Even if you are not running please come along and support those who are running. The event will start and finish in Rushmoor Arena.

**Pathfinder Dutch  
Para course**

Branch member Steve Kavanagh will be going over to Teuge to attend the Pathfinder Dutch basic Para course Teuge April 7th/12th 2013. The course is now full with 29 people booked in. Steve will be joined by Brian Mulvey and Iain Rodgers who are attending as casual jumpers. Steve obtained his wings with 10 Para a few years ago, so he is hoping that this will be a refresher. Once he has passed the course and obtained his Dutch military wings he will be allowed to jump at Normandy and Arnhem, hopefully from a Dakota with Pathfinder.

**Army V Navy  
Rugby Match**

The annual Army v Navy Rugby match takes place at Twickenham on **Rugby Match** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April. The online booking office [www.arutickets.com](http://www.arutickets.com) opens on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February** so please book early if you want good tickets for the match.

**Pen Y Fan  
Weekend**

The Pen Y Fan weekend is over the weekend 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May. I appreciate that this may appear to be a long way off but the time will soon go. Please make a note if you are thinking of attending this year. Further details and timings from the British Airborne Forces Club will appear nearer the date.

**Annual  
General  
Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April. This is the most important meeting of the year so please make the effort to attend. All of the committee will be up for re-election so the future of the Branch is in your hands. If any member would like to put their name forward for a position on the committee please inform the secretary in writing.

**Jackie Baughan**

Although Jackie was not a member of the Aldershot Branch I have been sent the following information.

***For those of you who had the ultimate honour and pleasure to have known him, Jackie Baughan, ex 2 Para MM. MID & PSI SP. Coy 10 Para died yesterday 23 Jan 2013 in hospital. Jackie was one of the first PSI's in Support Company in the early 70s.***

*Stuart*

# Christmas Ball



Enjoying drinks and socialising before being piped in for the meal



Peter and Judith lead the way into the ballroom



Birthday boy, Pete Maxfield being presented with his cake



The superb birthday cake, Pete can be seen in the top left of the cake!



Chatting before the meal



Mike McRitchie shows that you are never too old to dance