



The Parachute Regimental Association Aldershot Branch *Newsletter*

03/2011

Charity Number 1125551

Mar 2011

Monthly Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will take place on **Friday 11th March 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 April monthly meeting will also be the AGM and will be held on Friday 8th April.

Bar Opening Times

The bar will be open at the following times during the month of March: Friday 11th March 2000hrs – 2359hrs and Friday 25th March 2000hrs – 2359hrs. Please check your year planner for further opening times. A free Pool Table, Bar nibbles, Television for all sporting events 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. Don't forget there is a PRA bell on the side of the gate.

New Members

There were two new members last month, Jim Bryce ex 1 Para (1956-78) and Geoff Iles ex 3 Para (1958-64).

The Union Jack Club

Many members are aware of the existence of the Union Jack Club near Waterloo Station in London but I thought I would produce an article explaining the facilities available and also give an insight into how the club was formed. As you will see from the article the club was formed over 100 years ago for soldiers and NCO's use. It was felt that Officers had more than enough clubs to go to in London. The facilities are superb and you will not find cheaper hotel or food prices in the city. The annual subscription is £17 per year with a one off joining fee of £25. The club is situated in Sandell Street, London, SE1 8UJ which is next to Waterloo Station (exit number 2). Members of the Union Jack Club are allowed to book in family and friends and there is an underground car park although you would need to book a place when you book your rooms. Please see the article on pages 2-5.

Imperial War Museum

The Branch are organising a visit to the Imperial War Museum in May. It is proposed that we meet in the Union Jack Club for coffee and once all those who are attending have arrived, we will make our way to the Imperial War museum which is a ten minute walk away. We will then spend the late morning and afternoon in the museum. We will then return to the Union Jack Club for an evening meal and then retire to the lounge for a social evening before returning home. The cost of a three course meal from the a la Carte Menu is £15. As members will be coming from different locations and the destination is Waterloo it is proposed that we all travel by train. If four or more members travel together you can get a group travel discount. Dates and timings will appear in the next newsletter. Please book early as places will be limited.

Stuart

History of the Union Jack Club

The Union Jack Club - 100 Years Ago

King Edward VII accompanied by Queen Alexandra, officially opened the club in July 1907 which was built in 1904. Since then around 15 and a half million people have stayed here (the 15 millionth guest was recorded on 31st January 2000). The year 2004 is therefore the 100th Anniversary of the Club.



Mrs Ethel McCall, Founder

The idea in creating this wonderful Club came from a courageous and resourceful lady called Ethel McCaul, a Royal Red Cross nurse, who was serving in Field Hospitals during the South African war at the turn of the 20th Century. She was adamant that her brave servicemen should be shielded from the debauchery and wickedness which abounded in London, particularly around Waterloo, and that they and their families should have somewhere to stay. After all, the officers had their clubs so why should not those below commissioned rank. Waterloo seemed the obvious place as this was the principal railhead leading to the ports and garrisons which served the Empire.

Fund raising began with concerts and entertainments; meetings were held throughout the country, for it had to be known that, though the Club was to be constructed in London, it was not simply a metropolitan affair, but a scheme affecting His Majesty's Forces throughout the Empire. One particular fund raising incident included an ice carnival presided over by HM King Edward VII, which involved John Philip Souza. He was the leader of Souza's Marching Band, more recently of course becoming the Director of Music of the United States Marine Corps Band.



Main Entrance of Original Building



The Magnificent Lobby

An imposing building of Edwardian magnificence soon rose at No 91 Waterloo Road, which was completed towards the end of 1904. At that time the Club contained 208 bedrooms and extensive public rooms. Further additions, including the establishment of the separate Families Club, were made before and after the First World War, so that by 1939 the Club contained a total of 800 beds.

The Club naturally found itself in great demand during both World Wars and its resources were fully stretched. Interestingly, for many years after the First World War an annual donation was sent anonymously to the Club. It appeared regularly and with each payment came a note with the words "In gratitude for a scrap of comfort". After many years these payments ceased and the words of this anonymous donor are today commemorated by a marble plaque sited in the Reception Area. The poignancy of the words perhaps sum up best the Union Jack Club's tradition of service to those who serve our country.



Bedroom Accommodation



The Restaurant



Library and Writing Room

During the Second World War the area around Waterloo Station was bombed severely and the Club itself was damaged. Referring to this period, the then Secretary of State for War said, "The Club carried on its work under the shadow of death of German bombs, but, like other institutions over which the Union Jack Flies, it has survived and will always do so. From my flat in London I have looked out on most mornings over the past five years and have always been greatly encouraged to see it still standing four square, to a great deal besides all that the winds blow, and during that five years it has provided lodgings for more than a million servicemen, in addition to having catered for well over three million meals".



Under Construction in 1970

The Club building was now becoming increasingly expensive to maintain, while at the same time habits were changing. It was the swinging 60's and national standards of living were rising, together with people's aspirations. The Club was in urgent need of modernisation of its amenities, its decor and the way it conducted its business; in short a great leap forward was required. It was therefore decided in 1970 to pull down the old Edwardian edifice and construct a completely new building in its place.



The New Building



The Victoria & George Cross Memorial

The facilities available at the Union Jack Club

Club Public Rooms				
	Reception and Security Open 24 hrs		VC & GC Lobby	
	Restaurant		Library	
	Bar Lounge		Banqueting & Meeting Rooms	
	Patio		Conference Rooms	
	Internet Cafe open 24 hrs		 Wheelchair Adapted Lifts, Rooms & Bathrooms	
A Warm and Welcoming Reception				

Accommodation

<p>The Club provides accommodation of a high standard *****</p> <p>The majority of our rooms have Ensuite Facilities except for some of our singles which have shared facilities *****</p> <p>Our single rooms sleep only 1 person and we have a range of double and twin rooms for 2 persons *****</p> <p>All rooms have TV, Tea/Coffee Towels and Toiletries *****</p> <p>Online Booking</p> <p>*****</p> <p>We also offer Family Suite for a couple with 2 children, Flats which can accommodate 3 couples, and for a luxurious stay, our Rickett Suite. Please note that these are not available online. To enquire email at abo@ujclub.co.uk</p>		Double Room		
		Twin Room		
		Single Room		
		Family Room		
		Flats		
		Superior Double		
		Rickett Suite		
		Double Room		

The Tariff does NOT include the price of breakfast.

(Full English £ 6.95 Continental £ 5.60)

Children under 3 years of age, no charge in all cases when sharing parents' room.

A baby's cot can be provided.

A discount of 10% is given on continuous bookings of 7 days or more.

Elected Members:

If you are an Elected Member of the Club, a Member of HM Forces, an Ex-Serving Member of HM Forces or Overseas Military Personnel , you can now **book online**

Otherwise , if you are eligible to use the Club' facilities, please call the Reservation Office on 020

7902 6000 or complete a [Reservation Request Form](#)

We look forward to welcoming you.

<u>Rooms Description and Photo Gallery</u>	Serving Members and Union Jack Club Members		Temporary Honorary Members (including Officers & Retired & Overseas) & Emergency Services	
	Exc.VAT	Inc.VAT	Exc.VAT	Inc.VAT
With Private Shower/Bathroom				
Rickett Suite (With 2 Flat Screens, Lounge & Luxury bathroom)	£ 113.33	£ 136.00	£ 123.75	£ 148.50
Single Room (With TV)	£ 34.58	£ 41.50	£ 51.25	£ 61.50
Double / Twin Room (With TV)	£ 79.17	£ 95.00	£ 92.50	£ 111.00
Superior Double	£ 95.83	£ 115.00	£ 109.17	£ 131.00
Family Room* (With TV)	£ 102.08	£ 122.50	£ 120.83	£ 145.00
Children 3-12	£ 17.50	£ 21.00	£ 21.67	£ 26.00
* The Family Room is suitable for 2 adults and 2 children (in bunk beds) up to the age of 12.				
Without Private Shower/Bathroom				
Single Room (No TV)	£ 32.92	£ 39.50	£ 39.17	£ 47.00
Single Room (With TV)	£ 34.58	£ 41.50	£ 40.83	£ 49.00
Double / Twin Room (With TV)	£ 61.25	£ 73.50	£ 71.25	£ 85.50
Children 3-12	£ 14.17	£ 17.00	£ 15.83	£ 19.00
Flats				
Flat A and B (Two Twins and One Double Bedroom)	£ 160.00	£ 192.00	£ 180.83	£ 217.00
Flat C and D (Two Double Bedrooms and One Twin)	£ 160.00	£ 192.00	£ 180.83	£ 217.00