



The Parachute Regimental Association

Aldershot Branch

Newsletter



03/2015

Charity Number 1125551

Mar 2015

Monthly Meeting

The March monthly meeting will take place in the **Conservative Club at 2000hrs on Friday 6th March 2015**. The April monthly meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 10th April 2015. I had to change some of the monthly meeting dates to fit in with the Excelsior Club. Now that we are meeting in the Conservative Club we can revert back to our original dates. I have attached an updated copy of the year planner with the new dates.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place before the monthly meeting on Friday 10th April. This meeting is the most important meeting of the year and we would like to see maximum attendance of the members. All committee members are up for re-election. If any member would like to be nominated for a position on the committee they need to have a sponsor and seconder. If any member would like to be considered for a position on the committee please notify the secretary. If there are no nominations and the present committee are willing to continue, their continued position on the committee will be ratified at the AGM. Annual subscriptions are due after the AGM and they have been held at £15 a year. This can be paid in any of the following ways.

1. You can pay by cheque (made payable to "Aldershot Branch PRA") or cash to the treasurer at the AGM.
2. You can pay by standing order. The Standing Order Form is attached to this newsletter.
3. Those members who are up to scratch with the new technology on mobile phones can use the Pingit App and send a text to the Treasurer. This will pay the money directly into the Branch Account. Full details of how to use this app will be in the next newsletter.

Since we have lost the use of Malta Barracks we are without income from the bar, so the Branch rely heavily on members subscriptions. Please ensure that you pay promptly.

New Members

We are pleased to announce that two new members and an ex member joined the Branch at the last monthly meeting. The new members are Fred McFadden ex 1st Para Log Reg, Brian Buddle ex 2 & 3 Para and Harry Randall ex 1 Para.

Pte P Wooltorton Arnhem Veteran

I have been informed by PRA HQ in Colchester of the funeral of Arnhem veteran Pte Peter Wooltorton. Although he lived in the Aldershot area we were unaware that he lived locally. As Peter was an Arnhem veteran we would like as many members as possible to attend. Please see below for details.

The funeral of 2765280 Pte Peter Wooltorton, ex 11th Para Bn and an Arnhem Veteran, who died on Thursday 12th February 2015 aged 93, will take place at 1500 hours on Monday 9th March 2015 at Park Crematorium, Guildford Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU12 4BP.

Rhine Crossing

I have received the following information from Colonel John Power, who is the President of the Croydon Branch of the PRA. The Croydon Branch supported the Aldershot Branch in numbers at our recent dedication of the new Standard. We would appreciate it if the Aldershot Branch members are able to reciprocate.

The Croydon Branch Of the Parachute Regimental Association will be holding their annual Rhine Crossing Commemoration at Sutton War Memorial at 10.30 on Saturday morning 21st March 2015. This was the biggest and most successful Airborne operation all in one lift, but heavily opposed, and as we know from our

Veterans, generally regarded as the toughest – objectives taken in 5 ½ hours but virtually all gliders hit and 1111 dead. Croydon Branch member Johnny Johnson went in by glider with 2nd Ox & Bucks and was the sole survivor of 12 Platoon. Some years ago he started to go to his local war memorial in Sutton Park to remember his comrades. Branch members started to join him and it has grown over the years into a short ceremony attended by the Mayors of both Sutton and Croydon. The Branch run the Commemoration themselves, formed up with berets and medals to say a few prayers, deliver a short description of the Operation and conclude with Last Post and Reveille before adjourning for a late breakfast at nearby Morrisons. Parking is free in B&Q (SM1 4RQ) just opposite the Memorial in Manor Park, provided registration numbers are registered at their desk. The event is not advertised to the public, though it is in a public place and there is normally press coverage, and we are normally joined by friends, relatives of those killed in the Operation and the odd passers by.

This year is special for a number of reasons. Johnny died a few months ago and we want to do the right thing on the 70th Anniversary, though this may well be the last time. The Branch is honoured to have a number of WW2 Veterans from both 1 AB Div and 6 AB Div, including other Rhine Crossing Veterans, some of whom will be on parade with us this year. Moreover, Branch Chairman Ken Smith happens to be the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames this year and has invited a number of other London Mayors, fully robed. This brings us to the point of this note: it would be somewhat embarrassing for the Branch to be outnumbered by Mayors, so we would particularly welcome support from other local PRA Branches.

If any member would like to attend and require transport please contact the secretary.

Fundraising for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

Please read the article below from Trish Shaw and if you can help or assist please do so.

On Saturday 18th April 2015 we are holding a big Charity Fundraiser for Friends of PICU at the Conservative Club in Aldershot from 10.00 - 16.00hrs.

I am not sure if you were aware but Allan and Katy Agnew's little girl Ellie was seriously ill and on life support machine in Southampton General. Ellie is only 18 months and had another relapse just last week. She got home on Friday.

Katy and I got together as we really wanted to say thank you to the Friends of Paediatric Intensive Care Unit who supported Katy and Allan throughout their ordeal. We came up with the idea of using the Con Club car park and the club to hold a family fun day with stalls, face painting, children's entertainment and lots more. We have even managed to get Gerald Howarth's interest and he would like to attend. We have permission from the Conservative Club to use their facilities and also Rushmoor Borough Council to street collect and sell at our stalls for the event.

I know PRA are really supportive of local charities and wondering if you might make the members aware of the event and perhaps they might like to help to ensure the day is a success by volunteering their help or donating to our stalls .

We are collecting lots of stuff for the stalls from bric a brac, second hand books/DVDs, cakes, tombola prizes, and anything people might want to donate! The kids are getting involved and even our grandchildren are busy putting together their own stall. Beau is making decoupage boxes to sell his home made sweets, and Lily is busy sowing tomato plants. They would also welcome any toys from other member's children who have out grown them to sell.

We will have a cake stall and refreshments available including burgers etc. We are still busy organising and contacting media etc., to make people aware of our Big Fun Day!

If any of your members have a small business and would like to have their own stall, we can facilitate and ask a donation be made to the charity. If any member has items for the stalls or would like to assist please contact the secretary.

Dedication of the new Branch Standard

The new Branch Standard was dedicated in the Royal Garrison Church on Sunday 8th February. The Branch Standards of the Croydon Branch, Chichester Branch, West Berkshire Branch and the Portsmouth Branch along with many of their members came along to support the Aldershot Branch. The church was a little bit chilly as the heating system had sprung a leak and had to be turned off, but portable heaters had been installed. The Reverend J L Vincent CF, Senior Chaplain to 101 Log Brigade and the Aldershot Garrison Chaplain conducted the service and we were very pleased when he integrated the dedication into the Sunday service. The service started with the dedication of the Standard, which was carried by Peter Richens to the altar. Peter was flanked with two Standards on either side. After the dedication and blessing the Standard was placed on the high altar and the other four Standards were placed in the holder at the side of the altar. After the service the Standards were returned to the Standard bearers and this time the Aldershot Branch Standard was placed in the Standard holder and carried aloft along with the other Standards. Thanks must go to Peter for organising the dedication service and to the other Branch Standard bearers and all of the members who attended. The Aldershot News came along and an article and photos appeared in the newspaper. Please see pages 4 and 5 for photos.

70th VE Day Celebration



Afghanistan Commemoration and Veterans Parade

The Branch is proposing to hold a 70th Anniversary V.E. Day celebration in the Conservative Club on Friday 1st May. The evening will consist of a finger buffet and music from the 40's. Dress is either smart casual or from the 40's era. The hall will be decorated to reflect the atmosphere at the time. The cost will be £5 a head and the evening will commence at 7pm. Further information will appear nearer the event. Please book your tickets prior to the event as this will assist with the catering. Tickets can be obtained from the secretary.

I have received the notification below from PRA HQ, Colchester. If you wish to participate please fill in the attached proforma and send it to the address at the end of this notice.

CALL TO ARMS & ACCREDITATION AFGHANISTAN COMMEMORATION & VETERANS PARADE

1. **Issue:** RBL require 400 veteran volunteers to participate in the Afghanistan Commemoration & Veterans Parade in London on Fri 13 Mar 15.
2. **Timings: Routine.** Friday 27 Feb 15. Prospective participants are to submit the completed Accreditation Proforma to the RBL via 2015@britishlegion.org.uk.
3. **Requirement:** Regimental & Corps HQs' are requested to distribute the attached documents to their respective Regimental Associations on behalf of the RBL.
4. **Background:** The RBL is looking to encourage 400 veterans to participate in the Afghanistan Commemoration & Veterans Parade so that they may salute their peers, their fallen comrades, and their loved ones who have supported them at home. In collaboration with other Service charities, they aim to provide a marching detachment of up to 400 Veterans and host a reception for Veterans and their families at Wellington Barracks for 1000 people.

Stuart

The Dedication of the Branch Standard



Peter with the furled Standard, flanked on either side by the other Branch Standards



The Reverend J L Vincent CF blesses the Standard prior to placing it on the high altar



The Standard is placed on the high altar during service with the other Standards in the holder



The dedicated Standard and the other four the Standards are returned after the service



Peter leads the Standards out of the church after the dedication



Peter Richens and the Reverend J L Vincent CF hold the Standard and they are flanked by the Standards of the Croydon Branch, Chichester Branch, West Berkshire Branch and the Portsmouth Branch



Peter Richens and the Branch Chairman, Iain Rodgers outside the Royal Garrison Church



**NATIONAL COMMEMORATION TO MARK THE END OF COMBAT OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN
– ST. PAUL'S & WELLINGTON BARRACKS**

VETERAN ACCREDITATION / EVENT PASS APPLICATION

(**EACH VETERAN** ATTENDING IS ASKED TO COMPLETE 1 (ONE) x ACCREDITATION FORM)

SECTION A: PERSONAL DETAILS & POINT OF CONTACT INFORMATION			
SURNAME			
(MAIDEN NAME)	(<i>if applicable</i>)		
FORENAME(S)			
DATE OF BIRTH			
HOME ADDRESS			
POST CODE			
TELEPHONE	MOBILE		
EMAIL			
SECTION B: EX-SERVICE DETAILS			
SERVICE		SERVICE NUMBER	
UNIT/CAPBADGE		RANK (on retirement)	
HONOURS AWARDED			
TOUR IN AFGHANISTAN	OP VERITAS (2001-02)		
	OP FINGAL (2002)		
	OP HERRICK (2006-14)		
THERE IS NO PARKING AVAILABLE FOR THE EVENT, EXCEPT FOR DISABILITY PERMITS			

SECTION C: FOR VETERANS WHO MAY HAVE LIFE-CHANGING INJURY:

(Please state if you require a carer to accompany you, as there is limited parking available)

IF YOU DO NOT HOLD A DISABILITY PARKING PERMIT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARK

DO YOU REQUIRE WHEELCHAIR ACCESS/ ASSISTANCE?		(YES / NO)
IF 'YES', WILL YOU BE ACCCOMPANIED BY A CARER?		CARER'S NAME
		ADDRESS:
		POST CODE
		TELEPHONE/MOBILE

(if yes, please give your carer's full name and contact information)

IS A VEHICLE PASS REQUIRED?

(Remember, please only fill in this section (C) if you have a disability parking permit)

VRN: MAKE: MODEL: COLOUR:

SECTION D: VETERANS' GUESTS ATTENDANCE AT THE EVENT

WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THE RECEPTION WITH FAMILY? (YES / NO)

(If yes, please provide the full names and contact details of your guests)

NAME	RELATIONSHIP?	CONTACT

SECTION E: MEDIA

FINALLY, FOR MEDIA & PR PURPOSES: (please circle relevant response)

ARE YOU HAPPY TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE/VIDEO TAKEN?	(YES / NO)
ARE YOU HAPPY TO SPEAK TO THE MEDIA ABOUT THE EVENT?	(YES / NO)
ARE YOU HAPPY TO PROVIDE US WITH A QUOTE OF SUPPORT TO USE WITH A PHOTO FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES?	(YES / NO)
CAN WE CONTACT YOU ON FACEBOOK/TWITTER? IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS	(YES / NO)
MEDIA COMMENT (if applicable)	
ADDITIONAL REMARKS	

Disclaimer: The Royal British Legion may communicate with the veteran identified on this proforma as the primary guest, concerning matters which directly affect the National Commemoration to mark the end of combat operations in Afghanistan (otherwise known as the

Event). The Royal British Legion will not use this information to promulgate any fund raising or other unrelated marketing products, unless granted consent to do so from the veteran/primary guest on request.

Please return your completed forms to The Royal British Legion by post or by e-mail no later than **Friday 27th February 2015**

E-mail: 2015@britishlegion.org.uk

Afghan Parade, FAO Sophie Hayward

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