



## The Parachute Regimental Association Aldershot Branch Newsletter

04/2011

Charity Number 1125551

Apr 2011

### Monthly Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting and Annual General Meeting will take place on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 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 May monthly meeting will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

### Bar Opening Times

Due to the change in the law by the Government regarding supervision and contact with young persons we have been informed that we can go back to using the bar every Friday. Unfortunately the bar will only be open for the monthly meeting and AGM on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April. This is due to the bar staff and some committee members being abroad on the weekend 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April. The following weekend is Easter and the following Friday is the Royal wedding. The bar therefore will be open at the following times during the month of April and May: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2000hrs – 2359hrs, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2000hrs – 2359hrs, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2000hrs – 2359hrs, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2000hrs – 2359hrs and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2000hrs – 2359hrs. 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 no new members last month but I owe Branch member Jim Newbury an apology. I mentioned that we had two new members the previous month and named Jim Newbury as one of the new members. As all of you know Jim Newbury has been a member for many years. I should have mentioned that Jim Bryce had joined the Branch. I would like to apologise to both members and I can assure you it had nothing to do with alcohol.

### Annual General Meeting

The next monthly meeting is also the Annual General Meeting. Please try and attend the most important meeting of the year. All of the Committee members are up for re-election. The Branch requires an Entertainments member and a Property member. The success of the Branch is in your hands.

### Imperial War Museum

The Branch is proposing to visit the Imperial War Museum (entry free) on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. It was mentioned in the last newsletter that we would meet in the Union Jack Club for coffee and return for an evening meal. Unfortunately we have had to change the agenda. Having been in the Union Jack Club last December and seen the prices for a three course meal it was assumed that this is the price we would pay. I contacted the Union Jack Club to discuss our trip and was informed that if the number was over 10 we would have to pay £23.65 each for the meal. If the numbers were greater than 40 they would have to open another seating area that would cost us another £100. The Chairman feels that this cost is unacceptable especially as many members are of retirement age. We have therefore revised our plans and are proposing to meet at Waterloo Station (under the clock) at 1030hrs. We will then proceed to the Imperial War Museum which is a 5 minute walk. There is a restaurant in the Imperial War Museum where members and their guests can have a snack/lunch. In the late afternoon we have the option of going to the Union Jack Club for a few drinks or catching a

train home. If any member would like to attend can they contact the secretary so that we know who is attending. The secretary will ensure that nobody gets left behind in Waterloo. If four or more members travel together you can get a group travel discount.

### **Big Curry Lunch**

As mentioned in the national press the Big Curry Lunch is being held all over the country from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> till Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April. All of the money collected is going to "**ABF THE SOLDIERS CHARITY**". 145 (South) Brigade are joining in and are holding a *BIG CURRY LUNCH* on Friday 8th April 2011 from 12:00 – 14:00 Hours. The venue is next to the PRA bar in Malta Barracks. Members are welcome to come and join in and help this very worthwhile cause. Please see flyer for further details.

### **Pen Y Fan Weekend**

This year's event is being held on Saturday 14 May in Brecon. As mentioned in the February newsletter if you want to stay in Dering Lines you need to be a members of the British Airborne Forces Club. The club is only accessible on the internet. Many members arrive on the Friday evening and book into Dering Lines for the weekend. The cost for the weekend accommodation is £10 but you need to bring your own sleeping bag. After the days walk they are hosted in the evening by the Brecon Rugby Club. It is a superb weekend and the numbers are increasing every year.

### **Pte Daniel Prior**

It was recently mentioned in the newspapers and national television that Private Daniel Prior who served with 2 Para was killed in Afghanistan. What is not known is that his Uncle, Corporal Steve Prior also served with 2 Para. Corporal Prior was killed in the Falklands war in 1982. Both men died at the young age of 27. Our thoughts and prayers go to all of Private Prior's family. A special tribute by Major General Dair Farrar-Hockley, MC is attached to this newsletter.

*Stuart*



145 (South) Brigade

# THE BIG CURRY LUNCH

Friday 8th April 2011

(From 12:00 – 14:00 Hours)

*To be held at*

**4 DIV RTC (SE) Malta Bks**

*In aid of*

**ABF**

**THE SOLDIERS'**

**CHARITY**

*With.....*

**Live Rock Band**

[www.lostpatrol.webs.com](http://www.lostpatrol.webs.com)

for Band bookings tel: 07780501897 (Scotty)



Further details contact:

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**ABF**

**THE SOLDIERS'**

**CHARITY**

Tickets available from the above

## **Tribute to Private Daniel Prior**

From Major General Dair Farrar-Hockley, MC

My heart goes out to the Prior family at this, their second loss, in operational service with The Parachute Regiment.

At occasional gatherings of veterans from the Falklands' War and, importantly, the families of those we had lost in battle, I had from time to time come across Dan Prior – then a young schoolboy – with his family. Gradually, his interest began to focus on following in the footsteps of his uncle, Corporal Steve Prior, who was a section commander in my Company and died during the battle for Darwin Hill, while recovering a wounded comrade to safety; an act of considerable courage without any thought for himself.

I had been fortunate to see Dan again when the Prior family received The Elizabeth Cross – in honour of Steve – just before 2 PARA deployed to Afghanistan. He was excited about serving with his Battalion on operations and playing his part in the close-knit team with whom he had trained. His family and his comrades in 2 PARA have lost a fine, determined young man, with the best of ideals.