



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



**05/2016**

**Charity Number 1125551**

**May 2016**

**Monthly Meeting**

The next monthly meeting will take place in the **Conservative Club at 2000hrs on Friday 6th May 2016**. The meeting after this is the June Meeting and will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016.

**Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting took place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April. The following members have been elected to serve in the following positions for the next year.

**President:-** David Taylor, **VicePresident:-** Mike McRitchie, **Chairman:-** Iain Rodgers, **Vice Chairman:-** Richie Gillett, **Secretary:-** Stuart McLaren, **Treasurer:-** David Rashbrook, **Entertainments Member:-** Julie Dinsey, **Property Member:-** Dennis Devey.

Due to his medical condition, Roger Barefoot is unable to continue as the Welfare Member. We would like to thank Roger for his efforts during the past year and we wish him well with his treatment. If any member would like to apply for this position please contact the secretary.

As a reminder yearly subs of £15 are now due. As in previous years, members have until the end of June to pay their subscriptions. To assist the treasurer please pay as soon as possible. All cheques should be made payable to "Aldershot Branch PRA" and sent to the treasurer or secretary.

**New Members**

There were two new members and one member who rejoined the Branch at the last monthly meeting. Barrie Thompson has served in 1, 2 and 3 Para. Bob Bryans served in 2 Para from 1962 till 1968. At this time he was a member of the Aldershot Branch. He contacted PRA HQ in Colchester earlier this year to ask for a new PRA membership card and mentioned that he used to be a member of the Aldershot Branch. I was contacted and was asked if we would like to get in touch with Bob. I emailed Bob who has lived in Tasmania, Australia since 1972 and asked if he would like to rejoin the Branch. I am delighted to inform you that Bob returned the joining form and said that he would love to rejoin the Branch. Steve Kettles has rejoined the Branch after a few years absence. The Chairman, Iain Rodgers, would like to welcome you all.

**Regimental Day and PRA AGM**

The Regimental Day and PRA AGM will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at the National Arboretum. The Branch is proposing to run a coach or minibus for this trip. It will cost between £600 - £700 to hire a coach, so we would need to fill a large number of the 52 seats for this to be cost effective. If we have to revert to a minibus there will be 16 seats on a first come first served basis. Last years cost for the minibus was £20 per person and this included the £5 for the meal.

A meal is available after the AGM and the cost of a meal ticket is £5 per person and the meal will be served in the marquee. Wristbands will be issued at the entrance to the National Arboretum. The wristband is to ensure that only those who have paid for the meal will gain access to the marquee. The dress for the day is blazers or suits and Regimental or Branch ties.

There is a motor train that travels around all of the gardens and wheelchairs can also be booked for those who can only walk short distances. Please advise the secretary if you require a wheelchair so that he can book you one. If any

member would like to attend would they please contact the secretary by Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May so that the meal and transport can be booked.

Field  
Marshal  
Montgomery

Five members of the Branch went to the Holy Cross Churchyard, Binsted, at the end of March to lay a wreath on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Field Marshal Montgomery's death. FM Montgomery died on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1976 at the age of 88. Peter Richens carried the Branch Standard during the wreath laying and short service. See page 5 for photos.

Aldershot  
Tabbers  
Walking  
Group

Please bring waterproofs in a small back pack and a change of shoes/trainers at the end of the walk as we don't want to walk into the pub with muddy boots. This also helps when getting into the car for the ride home. The group will be meeting in the Garrison Church Car Park from 9am/9.15am next to the Wellington Statue. It is proposed that we car share to save taking empty cars. Peter Richens has now organised the following walks for March and April. The walks will be 5/6 miles.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday 19th May and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.**

If you would like to attend any of the walks or require further information please contact the Secretary.

The  
Trafalgar Inn  
Sign

The Trafalgar Inn sign is now in pride of place. I was in the Traf on the weekend before the last monthly meeting and Rich Greasley was shown the new sign that John had painted. Rich has helped Stace with fundraising for the **"Remember the Fallen"** charity that Stace and the Traf have supported over the years. Rich produces items for sale to raise funds. One of the items he has produced is limited editions (100) of painted slates depicting many Airborne scenes. As soon as he saw the sign that John had painted he presented one of his slates and asked if it could be given to John as a thank you. Photos of the sign on the wall and the presentation to John can be seen on page 5.

Pen-Y-Fan  
Weekend

The Pen-Y-Fan weekend is taking place over the weekend 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May. If you haven't booked in by now please do so as soon as possible. The yearly walk up to the top of Pen-Y Fan takes place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May starting with a briefing at 9am in the lay-by at the bottom of the Fan. If you require further information please contact the secretary.

Pathfinder  
Parachute  
Group UK

Members of the Aldershot branch have and still jump with Pathfinder parachute group; the following gives a taste of what they are all about, the courses and events that are open to serving members of HM forces but they must meet the conditions set out in PART ONE ORDERS HQ LAND SUPPORT UNIT 21 JULY 2004 AND LANDRGO-41.

For those of you who don't know us we are a veterans Para parachute club. We are in no way anything to do with the British Pathfinder platoon. We are a jump club, plain and simple. Having said that there is nothing simple about what we do. We specialize in jumping round military parachutes for fun and due to the BPA no longer using round parachutes we are based at the Dutch National parachute centre in Teague, Holland and we also use the skydive parachute school in Spain.

Our instructors are mostly former Parachute regiment soldiers with several thousand jumps between them. So for anyone who fancies either having a go at military parachutes or for the old and bold a last jump to finish off or for the

enthusiast who would like to get into this we run courses in Holland and Spain several times a year. The course is suitable for refreshers or the novice who has no jump experience at all. The Dutch course currently costs 450 euro, is spread over a weeks duration. You will do five jumps from a Cessna caravan and at the end of the course you will be awarded the Dutch military B wing (Parachutist) and supporting paperwork, an international parachutist sports license, our club proficiency wings and a hangover (The hangover is optional) For details of the course in Spain contact the jumps co-ordinator, Roy Mobsby on the website below.

For those of you who want more, we attend military parachute courses around the world. However our main events are jumping into Normandy for the anniversary in June, SAS Operation Gain anniversary in August and Arnhem in September. On those occasions we try to use a C-47 where available.

To jump with us you must be a Pathfinder club member, which costs you the grand sum of £20 a year. We have several groups around the world, in 27 countries last count. For more information you can look at the photo galleries on any of our Facebook pages or go to our web site. Sections to look at will be 'Joining us' 'Course overview' which will give you a good idea on how we run our course and then our 'History pages' which will show you what we have done in the past. Once you have joined us you will receive several newsletters a year and information on our courses.

Pathfinder group UK is part of the bigger International Pathfinder Parachute group, a series of active former veterans parachute clubs who continue to jump military style for fun as well as keeping alive the memory and traditions of our Airborne veterans. We are not limited to former Paratroopers but welcome all who would like to help us jump round military parachutes and keep alive our military traditions. The Airborne brotherhood is alive and well and with Pathfinders help is spread around the world.

### **COURSE AND EVENTS FOR 2016: -**

Any questions or queries go to <http://www.pathfindergroupuk.com/>

#### **Feb 2016**

**Spain Feb 22nd to the 28th of Feb**

#### **March 2016**

**Spain Basic Para course. 5 jumps. Combined dates with AFF course. No dates yet confirmed. This is in the planning stages.**

#### **March 2016**

**Teague Holland March 2016 Basic Para course. 5 jumps. Basic course.**

#### **April 2016**

**Spain Basic course April 2016**

**Teague Holland April 2016 17th to the 22nd April 2016**

## June 2016

### **Normandy Anniversary drop: - Arrive 3rd depart 7th June.**

Accommodation we hope to be in the community centre again.

We hope to complete three jumps, one a day onto Sannerville DZ. This is subject to change as we have yet to receive the program of events taking place on the ground. I do not intend to drop on any other DZ. We go where we are appreciated and where we do not get ripped off. Each is a separately priced jump so I suggest to save money each jumper only does the one jump. All jumpers must have WW2 allied uniform. Anyone with US equipment only must purchase a British Dennison smock and then can represent SOE/Jedburg teams. This is because every other group dresses as Americans. We are dropping on a British DZ. We are using the French C-47 so we are restricted to 16 jumpers per drop. We will need at least 50 jumpers to cover the costs. It's still early days yet so I'm happy with what we have so far.

## Aug 2016

### **Magdeburg East Germany**

This is a chance to jump with East German and Russian paratroopers at their bi annual reunion. A good long weekend of parachuting.

## Aug 2016

**Operation Gain, anniversary event France. 12/13/14th of Aug. Jump Ship DC3. 32 jumpers needed.**

## Aug 2016

**Teague Aug 1st to the 5<sup>th</sup> Basic Course.**

## Sep 2016.

**Teague Holland. This will be the week leading up to the Arnhem anniversary. Date to be confirmed.**

## Sep 2016

**Arnhem anniversary event. Dates to be confirmed. We are negotiating a C-47 but may use two possibly three AN2 instead. Depending on cost and availability. A lot more jumpers will be needed if we are to use the C-47. Minimum figure 60 jumpers to pay for the C-47.**

## Nov 2016

**Spain**

**Water jump? To be advised, but not to be missed.**

*Stuart*

## Anniversary of the Death of Field Marshal Montgomery



George Sherwood salutes after laying the wreath.



Stuart Soane, Stuart McLaren, Peter Richens, George Sherwood and Don MacNaughton

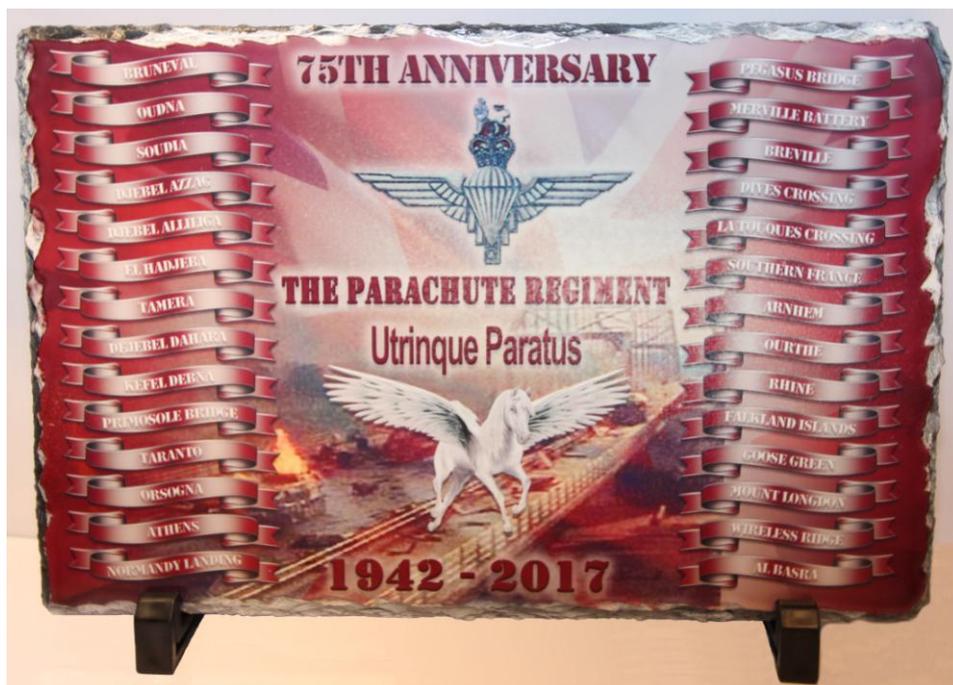
## The Trafalgar Inn Sign



The sign in Pride of Place



Iain presents John with the Slate



The slate is 12 inches wide and 8 inches tall and is a limited edition of 100