



The Parachute Regimental Association
Aldershot Branch
Newsletter



06/2012

Charity Number 1125551

June 2012

Monthly Meeting

The next Monthly Meeting will take place on **Friday 1st June 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 29th June 2012. This is a week early due to the first Friday falling on Airborne Forces weekend. An article on Airborne Forces weekend is in this newsletter.

Bar Opening Times

The bar will be open at the following times during May, Friday 1st June 2000hrs – 2359hrs, Friday 8th June 2000hrs – 2359hrs, Friday 15th June 2000hrs – 2359hrs, Friday 22nd June 2000hrs – 2359hrs and Friday 29th June 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.

New Members

There were two new members last month, John Sleep and Ken Cardwell ex 1 Para. John has taken the forms home with him as he can't remember all of the places he served in and all of the medals he has been awarded. I am sure that it will become clear when I inform you about his service next month. Welcome to the Branch.

Annual Subscriptions

Please note that the annual subscriptions are now due. All members have until the end of June to pay their subscriptions after this time they will cease to receive the newsletter. The annual subscription is **£15**. Please make your cheques payable to **"Aldershot Branch PRA"**. Cheques can be handed to the Treasurer at the monthly meeting or sent to the Secretary at the address below. Don't forget that you can pay by Standing Order.

National Airborne Memorial

The secretary will contact all those who have booked places on the minibus going to the unveiling of the Airborne Memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire on Friday 13th July. You should receive the information by Friday 14th June.

Rhine Crossing

It was mentioned in last month's newsletter that Richard Clare laid a wreath on behalf of his uncle, Thomas Clare. Thomas was ex Ox and Bucks and in glider number 6 which landed at Pegasus Bridge. Unfortunately Thomas later lost his life during the Rhine crossing. Branch member Bob Hilton has sent me two photos. The first photo is of Thomas Clare's headstone in the Reichswald War Cemetery. The second photo is of the Ox & Bucks Memorial that he took just after the commemorations this year. The Memorial is located about 50-100 metres from the Railway Station at Hamminkeln. Thank you Bob for this information.



Thomas Clare's Headstone



The Ox and Bucks Memorial

PRA AGM & Families Day

The Parachute Regimental Association Annual General Meeting will take place in Merville Barracks, Colchester on Saturday 9th June. Along with the AGM a Families Day is being organised. We have not received any requests for transport. Any member who wishes to attend will have to go by their own transport. Don't forget that you will need a ticket to enter the barracks. The secretary can obtain the tickets but please do not leave it too late to order them.

Army v Navy Rugby Match

The 28th April 2012 saw a record crowd of 65,302 head to Twickenham in the rain for what turned out to be as always, a great day out - the Army and Navy battling it out for the Babcock Trophy. The Branch members left from three locations and met up at Clapham Junction and headed for Twickenham. The cold and rain did not spoil what was a terrific day. Fortunately, most of the pubs had been expecting the rain and provided tents. Meeting old friends over a pint or three and with a burger thrown in was how we used to celebrate, although the stomach these days might not agree. This year we were fortunate enough to be joined by over 60 members of the Military Wives Choir who kicked the main festivities off with two songs from their number one album and then were joined by the Band of the Coldstream Guards to lead the crowd singing the National Anthem. For the Royal Navy the game started well with them scoring a penalty in the first couple of minutes. For the following 15 minutes the teams looked fairly evenly matched, then it all seemed to fall in place for the Army and there was no looking back. The final score was 48-9 to the Army and the Babcock Man of the Match trophy was awarded to Semesa Rokoduguni. The date for next year's game is 27th April 2013, tickets will go on sale in February. Note the good seat tickets in the photo below.



The Military Wives Choir and the Band of the Coldstream Guards
The Army and Navy Teams are lined up in front

Falklands **30th Anniversary**

The Parachute Regiment & Airborne Forces Falkland Islands Conflict 1982, 30th Anniversary Event (PARA Falklands30) will take place on over the weekend 16th -17th June. This event is to be a Regimental Family occasion with priority being given to the NOK & families of those who were bereaved. Our Colonel Commandant has indicated that 16/17 June will be the principle Falklands event. 16 Air Assault Brigade has been asked; ongoing operations aside to provide Colour Parties & Guards from 2 & 3 Para & the Regimental Band. The main event will be held on Sunday 17th June at the Military Cemetery with a full Drum Head Service followed by a March Through & Salute at Princes Hall followed by a Fly Past. VVIPs have been asked to take the Salute. Once the Parade has been dismissed there will be a Reception for all those who fought in the Falklands in the Princes Hall. A Marquee will be erected in the Princes Gardens which will serve food and drinks to all those not eligible for the Princes Hall. A full programme is on page 4.

Southsea **Spectacular**

The Southsea Spectacular will take place on Sunday 1st July at the Marine Museum on Southsea Common. Will members wishing to attend please contact the secretary. If there are sufficient numbers we will book a minibus for the trip. The cost will be £12 which is the same as last year.

Airborne Forces **Weekend**

Airborne Forces weekend is always held on the first Saturday in July which is Saturday 7th July this year. The festivities begin on the Friday evening when the old and bold start to arrive. The Traf begins to fill and the noise level starts to rise. The main day is on the Saturday and this year there is a special ceremony which is being held in the Aldershot Military Cemetery. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter there is no lasting memorial to all those Airborne Troops who lost their lives in Northern Ireland during Operation Banner. The British Airborne Forces Club (BAFC) spent the last two years trying to obtain permission and

this has now been granted. Richard Stacey (Stace) who is ex Parachute Regiment and known to many members has raised the money by selling T Shirts over the past two years. The BAFC are building the plinth at this moment and will be adding the memorial as soon as it arrives later in June. They would like many of the Operation Banner Airborne to attend. The timing for the unveiling is 1040hrs on Saturday 7th July in the Military Cemetery. Please make sure that you are in position by 1030hrs. A Pipe Band will also be in attendance. After the service all those attending are invited to come back to the Traf. The evening speaks for itself and the jukebox is redundant as nobody would hear it above the sound of laughter. If you haven't been to the Traf for a few years and would like to sample the atmosphere that you remember, I recommend that you pop along for a couple of hours. You won't be disappointed.

Summer Ball

The Summer Ball will be held in the Ballroom of Potters International Hotel on Saturday 4th August. The menu for the Summer Ball is a fixed menu and is shown below. A vegetarian option is available and is also shown below. The flyer for the Summer Ball is on page 5. We have kept the cost to £30 which is the same as the past two years. Will members please assist us and send in their bookings along with a cheque made out to "**Aldershot Branch PRA**" as soon as possible. Come and celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee at the Summer Ball.



Branch Celebrity

I am pleased to inform you that we have a celebrity in the Branch. Branch member Norman Nichols appeared on national television a few weeks ago. The show that he appeared in was Noel Edmonds **“Deal or No Deal”**. He was selected to take on the Banker and informed Noel of his strategy. He decided to pick the box numbers according to the units he had served with in the Army and house numbers he had lived at. Unfortunately using 1, 2, 3 Para and his house numbers didn't seem to work and he ended up winning only £50. Undeterred, Norman has assured us that he is willing to sign autographs the next time he is in the bar. Unfortunately he can't afford to buy anyone a pint!. I would also like to thank Norman for supplying the information about the Army Boxing Finals that appeared in last month's newsletter.

Closing the Gate

I don't want to finish the newsletter with a complaint but after the last monthly meeting a member drove out of Malta Barracks and left the gate open. The Commanding Officer has insisted that we ask all members to ensure that the gate is closed when you enter and leave the barracks. Due to forthcoming events the security rating has been raised. Please help us by closing the gate. Thank you for your assistance.

Branch Header

You may have noticed a slight difference to the header on the newsletter. All Branches have been informed by PRA HQ that the only badges that we are allowed to use are the Parachute Regiment and Pegasus badges. This wasn't directed at the Aldershot Branch. Quite a few Branches have been adding various badges over the years. We have therefore removed the 16 Air Assault badge from the header.

Stuart

Falkland's 30th



Anniversary Parade

“UTRINQUE PARATUS”

Outline Program Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June 2012

Saturday 16th June:

People may wish to travel to Aldershot on the Saturday; therefore arrangements have been made with the Trafalgar Pub (The Traf) to hold a get together drink in the evening.

Sunday 17th June:

Drumhead Service at Aldershot Military Cemetery:

9am - Car Park opens (AA signage on main roads leading in to Aldershot "PARA Falklands30 Drumhead Service" near the Cemetery there will be more signs for PARA Falklands 30 Car Park) for those of you that know the area the car park is located 400 metres from the Cemetery side gate on Ordnance Road up the hill at the old Garrison POL Point. There will also be toilets in the car park. When you have parked use the Cemetery side gate on Ordnance Road to enter the cemetery.

10am - Sodexo Hospitality Tent opens in the cemetery with free Coffee, Tea and a light snack.

From 10am - St John's Ambulance will be in attendant.

10.45 am - VIPs/NOK of KIA/Guests arrive by coach from Princes Hall.

By 1045 am - Drum Pile and Band set up (Band of The Parachute Regiment).

11am - Colours of the 2nd Bn & 3rd Bn of The Parachute Regiment set up on Drum Pile.

11.15am - Sodexo Hospitality Tent closes, congregation moves to their area for the service.

11.25am - PRA Standards form up for their march on.

11.30 am - Drumhead Service starts.

12.15 pm approx - Service ends. The car park will close at 1pm, there is ample parking in Aldershot Town Centre Car Parks.

12.30 pm - VIPs/NOK of KIA/Guests leave for Princes Hall by coach.

1.15 pm - March Past forms up in three guards in Willems Avenue (off Hospital Hill) RSM 3 Para Parade Commander.

The Band of The Parachute Regiment will be leading the Parade.

No 1 Guard: The Colours of the 2nd Bn & 3rd Bn of The Parachute Regiment and Marching Troops from 3rd Bn The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Units (approx 60 in Total).

No 2 Guard: Falklands Veterans.

No 3 Guard: PRA Standards and Members of the PRA.

1.30 pm: March Past steps off, the route is past Princes Hall on Princes Way (the salute will be taken by General Sir Peter Wall). Carry on marching into Governor Road turning left into Victoria Road. Turn left into Station Road and at the NAFFI Club Roundabout turn left into to the High Street. At the top turn right into Princes Way (Prince Hall). The parade will be halted at the Prince Hall, the route takes approx 16.5 minutes. The Parade is requested to stay form up for the Flypast.

1.50 pm/2pm: Flypast; the aircraft will consist of Falklands era aircraft including the Vulcan Bomber.

Once the Flypast ends there will be a reception, due to numbers/ Health & Safety restriction in Prince Hall (we are catering for 1,000) NOK of KIA/ VIPs/ Guest and Falklands Veterans reception will be in Prince Hall. The reception for Members of the PRA will be in the Tent in Princes Gardens opposite Princes Hall. You do not require tickets to attend the receptions

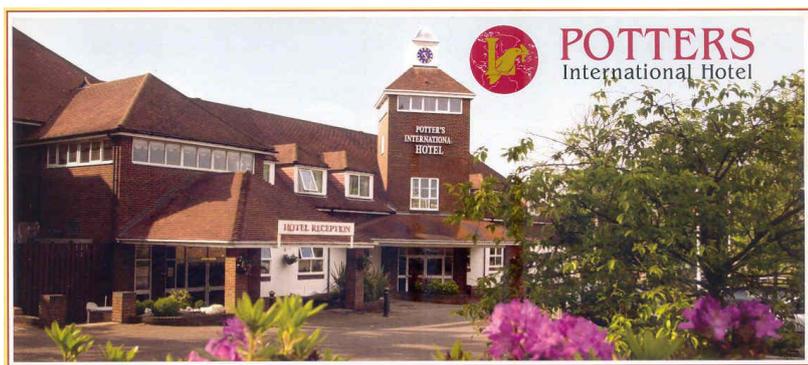
In both locations there will be a cash bar and a free Hot Lunch served. Once the lunch has finish there will be the opportunity to mingle to and from Prince Hall and Princes Gardens. The Band will be playing in the new bandstand in Princes Garden throughout the reception.

4 pm: Reception ends, see you all in 2032 for the 50th Anniversary?

There is no wet weather programme, so we are in the lap of the gods, with the bad spring weather we have had we are due some good weather in June?

Dress: Serving Officers and Soldiers; Full Service Dress with Medals. Members of the PRA Suits/Blazers, Beret and Medals

GRAND SUMMER BALL



*Will be held in the Ballroom of Potters International Hotel
on Saturday 4th August 2012*

1900 for 1930hrs

Dress: Dinner Jacket/Mess Kit/Lounge Suits

Carriages at Midnight

Entertainment provided by Potters International Hotel

Tickets £30



*Please inform the secretary if you require the main menu
or a vegetarian menu.*

*All cheques are to be made payable to
"Aldershot Branch PRA"*

This is a very popular event so please book early.

*If you would like to sit at a table
with friends mention this at time of booking*



*A Piper will Pipe the Members and Guests into Dinner
Quality Raffle Prizes ~ Photographer
Please contact the Secretary for tickets:*



Latest date for tickets Friday 13th July

