



The Parachute Regimental Association Aldershot Branch Newsletter



10/2014

Charity Number 1125551

Oct 2014

Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will take place in the Excelsior Club at **2000hrs on Friday 3rd October**. The meeting after this will be the monthly meeting held on **Friday 31st October 2014**. This is a week early due to the Airborne Service of Remembrance in St Lawrence Jewry, London on Friday 7th November.

Jim Maddox

It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of Branch member Jim Maddox at the age of 89. Jim Died on Thursday 7th August but unfortunately his family never informed us until I sent the September newsletter, so we were unable to attend the funeral. Jim joined the Branch nine years ago and he started his army service in the Kings Own Scottish Borderers from 1943-47. He left the army in 1947 and rejoined in 1950 and served with the Northumberland Fusiliers until 1952. He transferred to 2 Para and served from 1953-56. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family at this sad time.

Suez Veterans Association



PROPOSED PROGRAMME

9.00am	Visitor Centre and cafe open
10.30-11.15am	Music by Derbyshire ACF Band (Merclan Regiment) in Marquee
11.25am	All to be seated in Marquee
11.30am 12.30pm	Service to begin Service to continue at Suez Memorial Garden
1.15pm	March past



Derbyshire ACF Band (Merclan Regiment)



SUEZ VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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LETTER TO THE CANAL ZONERS TO COME AND JOIN THE PARADE

EVENT AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Could you please include this in your events calendar

I am organising along with the Suez Veterans Association Committee an event to commemorate the signing of the Anglo/Egyptian Treaty for the British Forces to withdraw from the Suez Canal Zone, the Treaty was signed on the 19th of October 1954 (60 years)

A parade and service is being arranged at the National Memorial Arboretum, which has been already booked for Sunday the 19th of October 2014 at 1000hrs. It will commence with a short service held in the marquee followed by a parade adjacent to the Suez Veterans Association Memorial Garden, which will include a wreath laying ceremony.

Standard Bearers would be most welcome along with Veterans Family and Friends.

We are hoping to have at least a thousand people attending the event.

Thanking you in anticipation for any help and support that you could contribute, this will most probably be the last big Parade that the Suez Veterans Association will organise

Regards,
Brian M.Watts Secretary of the SVA

The names of all the Units/Corps that served in Egypt in the 1950's are shown on the rear of this invitation.

London Pub Walk

Julie, our Entertainments member has arranged a London Pub Walk on Friday 17th October 2014. Any interested members can meet us at Waterloo at around 6.15pm. We meet the guide outside Blackfriars Tube, and the walk commences at 7pm. The cost for the Walk is £9 and £7 for 65 and over. With a qualified guide I am sure that this will be an interesting evening. Can you notify the secretary if you are interested in attending.



1 Para Past and Present Annual Dinner

The Regimental Sergeant Major of 1 PARA WO1(RSM) Steve Childs has invited all Warrant Officers and SNCO's Past and Present to the Annual Dinner to be held in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess at St Athan on the 18 October 2014. Any former Warrant Officer or SNCO who wishes to attend is requested to contact any one of the following:

WO1 (RSM) Steve Childs 01446 784106
Mrs. Jenny Pitt 01446 784243
The PMC of the Mess Jody Harris 01446 784145

Accommodation is available to those wishing to stay overnight and the cost per ticket is £35.00. Your support to this event would be greatly appreciated.

Walter Mitty

For those members with access to the internet, I have received the email link below to a petition for the UK Government to adopt the United States Stolen Valour Act (Walter Mitty Act).

Responsible department: Ministry of Defence.

This petition is raised following the ongoing concerns over those who seek to impersonate service personnel for their own personal gratification and gain.

Parliament needs to act to preserve the integrity and dignity of our armed forces and veterans. We ask that a law is passed which the wearing of medals or military insignia not earned, at any public or private gathering or function so as to deceive any person as to their military service status either past or present be punishable by law. The petition needs 100,000 signatures for it to be debated in Parliament. If you are willing to sign the petition please click on the link below.

<https://submissions.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/62986>

Field of Remembrance 6th November

The above service will take place at 11am in the Gardens of Westminster Abbey, Whitehall, London on Thursday 6th November 2014, and will be opened by a senior member of the Royal Family. Those expecting to attend are advised the area within the gardens is very restricted and only a finite number of people can physically stand behind the very small plot allocated to the PRA. Over 300 small memorial crosses are placed in the plot which is prepared by the National Secretary with the able assistance of members of the London Branch. Due to the increased popularity of this event, demand for entry tickets has risen dramatically; therefore the RBL has introduced a ticket entry system and restricted the number of tickets issued to participating organisations. A bid will be made by PRA HQ for tickets and branches should not expect to have large numbers of tickets allocated. Members of the PRA belonging to other veteran organisations may of course apply to that organisation for their own entrance ticket but will be expected to stand behind their respective plots. Please contact the secretary if you require tickets.

**Remembrance
Service in St
Lawrence Jewry
7th November**

The Airborne Forces Memorial Service is held on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday at St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall. This year's service will take place on Friday 7th November. The service will start at 1130hrs. This event is open to the wider Regimental family and is not a ticket event. There will be a reception after the service at the Red Herring Pub, Wood Street where a light snack and refreshments will be provided. Members of the Aldershot Branch will be attending this year and will be leaving from Aldershot railway station at 9.30am. We will meet up with other members at Waterloo Station and travel via the Waterloo and City Underground to the Bank Station. This is a direct link with only three stops. Please arrive early to secure a seat in the church. If any member would like to join for the first time please contact the secretary if you require further information.

**Cenotaph Parade
Whitehall London
Sunday 9th
November**

The Parachute Regimental Association is grateful to Lieutenant General JD Page CB CBE for agreeing to lead the airborne contingent past the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London this year. The Royal British Legion has once again allocated the Airborne contingent 174 tickets. These tickets are usually issued by TRBL in late **September/early October**. Please be aware these tickets are for members of the PRA only. It has been noted on previous parades a number of family members, including children, have appeared in the ranks of the Airborne Contingent. In the spirit of remembrance, family members are most welcome, however on this particular occasion they are not permitted to take part in the March Past and will be required to leave the parade and advised they may spectate from the pavement lining the marching route. Please do not attempt to flout these rules as asking members to leave the parade causes all sorts of unnecessary embarrassment. **If any member would like to apply for tickets please contact the Secretary as soon as possible.**

**Aldershot Branch
Container**

I am pleased to inform you that the Garrison Sergeant Major, WO1 Tom McCabe has given the Branch permission to permanently store our container on the car park next to the Garrison Sergeants Mess in New Normandy Barracks. The container will be moved by 27 Regiment.

2015 Dairies

The Branch has ordered twenty 2015 dairies. So far we have received requests for twelve dairies. The remaining eight will be offered for sale at a cost of £2.75 each at the next monthly meeting.

**Arnhem 70th
Commemoration
Weekend**

A full report on the Arnhem 70th Commemoration weekend will be published in the next newsletter.

**68th Airborne
March Arnhem**

This year was the 31st year that the Branch has participated in the Airborne March. We were blessed with sunshine and warmth as the crowds arrived at the start point in the sports arena behind the Hartenstein Museum. This year was the third highest participation with 34,806 people taking part. There are four distances that people can register for and that is 40km (25 miles), 25km (15 miles), 15km (9 miles) and 10km (6 miles). People start arriving at 8am but the military and marching groups do not start until 11am. After the announcement in Dutch and English informing those assembled about the reasons behind the march the Last Post is played, along with a minutes silence. Reveille is then played and the gates are opened and the first group is led out with a marching band. Over 25 marching bands take part leading out groups of marchers. After last year's march Peter Richens arranged for a Branch Airborne March flag to be made and he carried this on the march. Whilst walking through Oosterbeek, I came across a local man who was walking with his three grandsons. I asked him how old they were and he replied that the youngest one was three years old and that you have to start them young. He said that he was three years old when he started and this was his 51st Airborne March.

Airborne March, Arnhem



Don MacNaughton, Peter Richens and George Sherwood with the Flag and two local children



In the form up area before the start



The Branch gives an "Eyes Right" at the saluting dais



The crowds stream under the welcoming banner



A Pipe Band lead the troops down the road



A Grandfather on the 6 mile walk with his three grandsons, the youngest is three