



**The Parachute Regimental Association
Aldershot Branch
Newsletter**



12/2017

Charity Number 1125551

December 2017

Monthly Meeting

The November meeting will be held at **8pm** on **Friday 1st December 2017** in the Conservative Club, Aldershot. The meeting after this will be the January meeting which will be held on **Friday 5th January 2018**.

Welfare Member

If you are not well, or you know of another member who is ill, can you let me know so that I can inform the Welfare member, Chris Rogers.

New Members

Bennie Registe rejoined the Branch at the November meeting. Bennie served in 3 Para. Irene Stoker also joined the Branch as a guest member. Irene's husband served in 1 Para. Welcome to the Aldershot Branch

Christmas Ball

The Christmas Ball is now fully booked. The Ball takes place on **Saturday 16th December** in the Tichbourne Suite, Princes Hall, Aldershot. Please arrive at **7pm for a 7.30** start. Carriages at midnight.

**Aldershot Branch
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 walk for December. The walks are 5/7 miles. We are now getting a regular 10 – 13 walkers.

The December walk will take place on **Thursday 14th December**. The walks for next year will be in the year planner which will be sent out with the January newsletter.

After this walk we will be having our Christmas meal in the Hen and Chicken Inn, Froyle near Alton.

If you would like to attend any of the walks please turn up on the day or if you require further information please contact the Secretary.

Our walk on Thursday 16th November was over a 13 mile course starting on the Basingstoke canal towpath next to the Waterwitch pub, Odiham. We were again blessed with very good weather and 8 members set off at 9.40am. The course was a figure of eight and the cars were parked in the middle of the eight. At the half way point we stopped for lunch and some members had made an effort with supplies and equipment. We finished the course in 4 hours 15 minutes which worked out at 3 mph pace. A pint in the Waterwitch afterwards was greatly appreciated.



Kerry Seekings has all the kit



The 8 members and Jago

St Lawrence Jewry

This year saw the largest number of members attending the Remembrance service in St Lawrence Jewry. Twenty-two members travelled to London for the service. The numbers attending has been growing every year and the church was full 20 minutes before the start of the service. Unfortunately due to the large numbers it took a long time to get out of the church so it was not possible to take a group photo.

After the service we all made our way to the Trading House pub about 50 metres away near the Bank of England. The food was paid for by PRA HQ and consisted of small bowls of hot food which kept appearing during the afternoon. A very moving service and wonderful day out.

Remembrance Service at Aldershot Football Match

Chris Chambers carried the Branch Standard onto the pitch before the match between Aldershot and AFC Flyde on Saturday 11th November. After the last post a minutes silence was held which both sets of fans observed superbly. See page 5 for photos

Remembrance Sunday

The first service was at the Cenotaph in Grosvenor Road. Ten years ago only 30 people turned up for the service, but this year over 300 were on parade. It was nice to see all of the cubs, scouts and youth organisations formed up. They also provided 15 Standards to stand in front of the Cenotaph.

The service in the Royal Garrison Church started at 10.45am and the church was full at 10am. After the service we made our way to the memorial at the entrance to the church to lay the wreaths. The Branch laid a wreath at the Cenotaph and the Royal Garrison Church. Spud Murphy carried the Branch Standard on the march past.

After the service 32 members attended the carvery lunch in the Garrison WO/Sgt's Mess. See page 5 & 6 for photos.

Hip and Knee Replacement

I have received the information below from Chris Chambers' wife, Jan who was a nurse at Frimley Park Hospital. Thanks Jan.

As a veteran, you can ask for a referral to a specialist Orthopaedic clinic at The Robert Jones & Edith Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7AG. There is a specific Veterans Clinic run by Lt Col Carl Meyer, an Army Reserve consultant surgeon who also works with 202 Field Ambulance and Reserve Hospital. A friend applied for a referral on 16 March, this year, and on 3rd May, a week ago, had a hip replacement, a total of just over 6 weeks. Lt Col Meyers specialises in

hips and knees.

If you don't mind a few days away from family, He can assure you it's more like a hotel than a hospital, and the foods really good. Having a long wait ahead of you at your local GP and hospital, this might be the way to go to achieve a much quicker result.

What is it? A service for military veterans to have their hip or knee arthritis assessed and, if appropriate, have joint replacement surgery and is led by Lt Col Carl Meyer, Military Consultant Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Surgeon at Oswestry's specialist orthopaedic hospital.

Lt Col Meyer is an Army Reserve officer who has been on three tours to Afghanistan and one to Iraq. He is an Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon with 16 Medical Regiment, 202 (Midlands) Field Hospital.

Who is it for? Anyone who has been in regular military service, including national service.

Where is it? The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RJAH), Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7AG, and is a centre of orthopaedic excellence specialising in lower limb replacement surgery.

When is it? Outpatient clinics are held fortnightly at RJAH. (Normally on a Wednesday)

How do I obtain an NHS referral ? Through your GP - Ask to be referred to the VETERANS' HIP & KNEE SURGERY SERVICE at Oswestry - And ask your GP to make a named referral to Lt Col Meyer.

Contact information Email:

rebecca.ann.jones@rjah.nhs.uk Fax: 01691 404067 Tel: 01691 404344

Your records at your GP needs to be annotated with the NHS issued codes for military/veterans, take photocopies of your red discharge book, because he will ask for proof that you're a veteran.

Military medical codes

13J1. Military veteran

13JY. History relating to Military Service

13qo. History relating to Army Service

13q1. History relating to RN Service

13q2. History relating to RAF Service

13q3. Served in the Armed Forces

Lt Col Meyer wants to "do" more operations for veterans, but he has two problems,

1; finding the patients, he knows that we are out here, it's letting us know he's there for us, and

2; getting the money from the NHS, but, the more ops he does the more money they will give him, therefore the more ops he can do. So, come on, I've had 3 enquiries so far, there must be more than us

3. If you are members of other military Facebook sites please, please, please copy and paste to these pages and let as many veterans know about this brilliant service that's just for us. It's about time us vets got something back for our years of loyal service.

Branch Diaries

The Branch has Airborne Diaries 2018 on sale at a cost of £5 each. They are superbly made and include a notepad. They would make an excellent birthday or Christmas present or just buy one for yourself. They will be on sale at the October, November and December monthly meetings.

If you can't make the meetings contact the secretary to arrange delivery.

We only have a few diaries left.



Airborne March Arnhem 2018

I am now in the planning stage for next year's 4 day trip to Arnhem to take part in the 72nd Airborne March. We will be departing on Thursday 30th August and return on Sunday 2nd September. We will be travelling by Eurostar from London to Amsterdam and the price will be around £110 for the return trip. I will be booking us into the Best Western Hotel which is across the road from Arnhem bus and railway station. The price of a twin room (2 people sharing) is €240, so that is €120 each. The final price should be no more than £240 each for the four days which is £60 a day for transport and accommodation.

If I book more than 10 people onto the Eurostar I get a 5% reduction and I am hoping for a good deal when I book the group into the hotel so the overall price could be lower. The hotel needs to be booked in January as it fills up very quickly. If you would like to come with us next year I need a £100 deposit by Saturday 13th January. I can't afford to book places and then find out that people have pulled out as I will be left with a large bill.

I will only be making the Eurostar and hotel booking once so if you decide you would like to join us after this time you will have to make your own Eurostar and hotel bookings. If you would like further details please contact me.

Christmas Greetings

The Chairman, Iain Rodgers, would like to wish all of the members, their wives, partners and families a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

He would like to thank the members for their help and support during the year.

Stuart

Remembrance Service at Aldershot Football Match



Chris Chambers carrying the Branch Standard onto the pitch



Jan Clout holding the match ball, with Jan Lou Trinder (94) who served on the Atlantic Convoys



The Standards are lowered during the Last Post

The Service at the Cenotaph in Grosvenor Road



The Padre gives the sermon



Iain Rodgers lays the Branch wreath



The Council mount the wreaths



The Branch wreath is on the left

The Service at the Royal Garrison Church



The Standards form up



They are ready to lay the wreaths



Iain Rodgers lays the Branch wreath



Stace lays the Trafalgar Inn wreath



The Memorial after the service



Spud Murphy carrying the Branch Standard