The Parachute Regimental Association
Aldershot Branch
Newsletter

04/2009 | ***Charity Number 1125551*** | **Apr 2009**

Monthly Meeting

The Annual General Meeting and monthly meeting will be held on **Friday 3rd April at 2000hrs in Malta Barracks**.

Bar Opening Times

The bar is open on Friday evenings **8pm till midnight** and Sunday afternoon from **3pm till 8pm**. Pool table 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.

Branch Ties

Branch ties are available for purchase from the Treasurer or Secretary at a price of £10.

New Members

There were five new members this month namely David Newton, Pete Cush, Pancho Watts, Boris Buddle and Budge Burridge.

Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Branch Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 3rd April 2009. This will be followed by the April Monthly Meeting. Please try and attend the Annual General Meeting. If any member would like to apply for a position on the committee please contact the secretary. Please note that the yearly subscriptions of £15 are due after the monthly meeting. Please make cheques payable to ***"Aldershot Branch PRA"*** and hand them to the treasurer at the monthly meeting or send them to the secretary at the address below. Please note that as in previous years if your subscription has not been received by the end of May it will be deemed that you no longer wish to be a member of the Aldershot Branch and you will no longer receive the newsletter.

D Day Luncheon Club

Branch member Bob Darby has asked me to inform you of the D Day Luncheon Club. The D Day Luncheon Club is a project whereby like minded persons can come together in a convivial environment in order to consider ways of perpetuating the remembrance of D Day and the Normandy Campaign to a younger generation. The idea is that of the NW Middlesex branch of the Normandy Veterans Association (NVA) and in particular their chairman Myer Malin.

It is therefore proposed that the first meeting of the D Day Luncheon Club be held in the Arnhem Room of Moor Park Mansion, who many will remember where the headquarters of the 1st Airborne Division prior to Operation Market Garden.

In addition to existing veteran members of the branch, it hoped that many who would like to subscribe to the sentiments as listed above are able to attend. Places are limited to 60. The Luncheon will take the form of a Reception followed by Lunch in the Arnhem Room. Timings are yet to be confirmed but it is likely they will 1215hrs followed by Lunch at 1300hrs on 6th June 2009. The cost will be £39.00 per place.

If you are interested in attending please the secretary as places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Pathfinder Group UK

From the 19th April to 26th April Pathfinder group UK will be running a Parachute course at Teuge airfield which is 40 minutes north of Arnhem for attendees to gain their Dutch B wings. The B wings course was set up by the Dutch Government to allow civilians about to join the armed services to complete a military Parachute course. This enables the government to call on ready trained Parachutists in times of trouble. This course is being dedicated to Operation Manna, the food air drop by the RAF to starving Holland in the last years of World War 2. Many thousands of Dutch People were saved by this action. The jumpers will need to complete 5 round canopy jumps during the week to earn their wings. These jumpers will be a mixture of ex Paras and first time civilian personnel. Two jumps will be Stand up exits from an Antonov An-2 Aircraft, while the other three will be from a small aircraft with a sit down Helicopter type exit. There will be 1 jumper from the USA, 1 from Ireland, 1 from Portugal and 2 from Poland. The UK will supply the biggest contingent with 13 jumpers. There will be a further 9 experienced jumpers turning up to grab the odd casual jump. Representing the Aldershot PRA will be Dennis Melia and David Rashbrook. Gill Rashbrook, Dave's wife who has never jumped before will be completing the 5 drops to earn her Dutch Wings.
As this will be Gills first jump she has decided to use the opportunity to raise money for Help for Heroes. Many members of the Aldershot PRA have already given to her cause and so far she has raised nearly £1400. Also attending as observers will be Denis' wife Valda and Gills sister Julie Dinsey. Attached is a copy of Gills details should any one else want to contribute to this worthy cause. The next course takes place from 31 May till 05 June 2009 at Teuge, Holland. If any member would like to achieve their Dutch wings and have a chance of jumping at the 65th Arnhem Reunion please contact the secretary.

GWS Pro Watch Para Edition

I have received an article regarding the GWS Pro Watch Para Edition. If any member would like to purchase a watch please contact Green Watch Services Limited at the address and telephone number on page 4.

Easter Treats

Three ladies from the Branch may be able to assist you with ideas for Easter and birthdays. They have asked me to print the following article. What are little girls made of....? Sugar & Spice and all things nice.... Stuck for ideas for Easter.....well maybe Sugar & Spice can help... Custom Hand Made Chocolates & Easter Eggs....
They can be personalised..... Orders can be placed by contacting Christine, Gill or Julie.

Stuart

GILLIAN RASHBROOK JUMPING FOR HELP FOR HEROES

HELP *for* HEROES
Support for our Wounded

My Name is Gillian Rashbrook, my husband is ex Support Company, 10 Para and we have two son's currently serving in the Armed Forces. I have been impressed over the last years with the work done by Help For Heroes in raising money for our wounded service men and women. To try and help in my own way and raise some money for them I have decided to do a military parachute course. In April I will be attending a jump school in Holland where I will do 5 parachute jumps to earn my Dutch B Parachute Wings; this will enable me to Jump into Arnhem on the 65th Anniversary of the battle this September this year. I am now looking for sponsors to help raise money for doing these jumps. All money given will go directly to Help For Heroes so please give generously. I also have a just giving site

www.justgiving.com/gillianrashbrook

Gill at RAF Brize Norton trying on a parachute

Gill in the bar at Malta Barracks

GWS Pro Watch - Para Edition

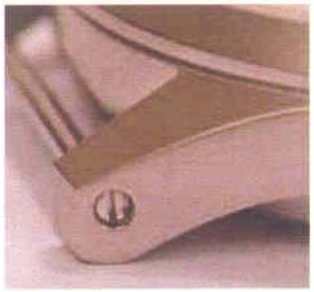
Greens Watch Services Ltd, the UK Distributor and Service Centre for traser H3 Military watches are pleased to announce the launch of the Limited Edition Para of the GWS Pro Watch. This unique timepiece has been designed with valuable input and assistance from the Parachute Regimental Association. Part of the proceeds of the sales will be donated to Airborne Forces Charities.

RRP
£149.95

Watch Specification

- Night Vision trigalight traser technology
- Illuminated hour markings and all three hands
- Large, Clear, Easy to read 24 hour dial
- Domed Mineral Glass (Anti Reflective)
- 100m Water Resistant
- Swiss Jewelled Ronda Movement
- 40 Month Battery Life
- Solid Screw In Pins (Easy to change straps)
- S/S & Black PVD case options
- Oversized crown (Easy to grip and change time)
- 20mm Lug Width - Wide range of straps available
- Nato or Leather Strap supplied as standard
- Matt Finish S/Steel case with Screw on Back Plate
- 40mm Diameter / 12mm Depth
- Weight 57g
- Military Specification & Technology
- Two year warranty

The GWS Pro features trigalight technology (Gaseous Tritium Light Sources) supplied by the Industry leader, mb-microtec from Switzerland. This enables the watch to be easily read in low light or even total darkness. This technology does not require a battery or external power source in order to work and never needs recharging or servicing. The watch will be available direct from the suppliers, through the Airborne Shop or Unit PRI's



Greens Watch Services Ltd, Greenways, Poplar Close, Bransgore, Dorset, BH23 8JF
Tel / Fax : 01425 672082, Email : info@h3-watches.co.uk , Web : www.h3-watches.co.uk