



The Parachute Regimental Association Aldershot Branch Newsletter

12/2009

Charity Number 1125551

Dec 2009

Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will take place on **Friday 27th November at 2000hrs in Malta Barracks**. Please note that the meeting has been brought forward a week due to the Christmas Ball which is being held on Friday 4th December.

Bar Opening Times

The bar is open on Friday evenings **8pm till midnight** and Sunday afternoon from **5pm 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.

Help for Heroes Wristbands

Please note that we have a supply of Help for Heroes wristbands on sale behind the bar at a cost of £2 each.

New Members

There was one new member this month, Dave Wentzell who served in 4 Company (Duke of York's) 10 Para.

St Lawrence Jewry

Members travelled from Aldershot, Farnborough, Ash, Basingstoke, Woking and Colchester to attend the service at St Lawrence Jewry Church. It was a very moving service especially when 3 Para's Colours were laid on the altar. The soloist soprano this year was Nicola Jenkin who sang "The lark in the clear air". After the service we were invited to Wood Street Police Station for a Buffett reception. During this time the Croydon Branch held a raffle for Help for Heroes.



The members outside St Lawrence Church

Remembrance Sunday

Members of the Branch attended the service at the Cenotaph in Grosvenor Road at 0930hrs along with the Mayor and many service organisations. Dave Hayward laid the wreath on behalf of the Aldershot Branch. They then made their way to the Royal Garrison Church to find that every seat was filled and that it was standing room only. A Guards Regiment band was playing in the church which made the service even more poignant. After the service our Branch Vice President Mike McRitchie laid the Branch wreath. The members then formed up for the March Past behind the Guards Regiment band and our Branch Standard which was carried by Vice Chairman Bill Harris. After the March Past the members made their way to the Aldershot Branch bar. A curry lunch was served to over 80 members and guests. See page 4 for photos.

Christmas Ball

The Christmas Ball will take place on Friday 4th December. A minibus has been booked and the pick up point will be the Princes Hall Aldershot. We obviously require your assistance if the pick-ups are to go smoothly. If you are using the transport please ensure that you pay the driver a reasonable amount as he will be working into the early hours to ensure your safe journey home. As a reminder a taxi from Malta Barracks to Aldershot after 2300hrs is over £20.

The pick up times are as follows :-

1845hrs Princes Hall, Aldershot

1915hrs Princes Hall, Aldershot

Please ensure that you are on time as the transport is on a tight time schedule and will not wait.

Burns Supper

The Burns Supper is the first event of the New Year and will be on Friday 15th January. Please book your tickets through the secretary. Will all members please book early to assist us in organising this event. See flyer for further details.

Frank Clarke

Some of you may have read in the Aldershot News that six weeks ago Frank (Geordie) Clarke, ex 3 Para was savagely beaten on his way home after having a few beers in the Trafalgar Pub. His injuries were so severe that he died twice on the way to hospital. All this was captured on CCTV and three people have since been arrested. His life support system was only switched off two weeks ago when he was able to breath for himself. Although he is still very poorly his wife June has asked that if any member who knows Frank could visit as it would be a great tonic for him and help in his recovery. He has just been transferred to the Bradley Unit at Woking Community Hospital which has a specialist neurological team who work on a one to one basis. The visiting times are 6pm – 9pm. If any member can visit his wife June does not drive and has to travel every day by train and would appreciate a lift. Please contact the secretary if you can offer June a lift.

Lt Col Donald Campbell

It is with sadness that I have to inform you that Lt Col Campbell who was a former Regimental Colonel of the Parachute Regiment died on 20th October. The Memorial Service for the late Lt Col Donald Campbell, will be held on Saturday 12th December 2009 at 1200 hrs in All Saints Church, Church Road, Fleet, Hants, GU51 4NB.

The Pegasus Journal

The Journal is facing increasing costs and while we do not make a profit, we are a registered charity, it is important that Pegasus does not become a drain on the Central Fund. In the past couple of years I have asked a lot of PRA members and readers what they think about the quality of Pegasus and are we justified in putting the price up. Most people I have spoken have said it is too cheap (£15 per year). Some people have suggested raising it by £5 others by £3.

There is no prospect of a price increase suddenly being made but in order to keep the Colonel Commandant advised I would welcome your thoughts so that I can be confident in my response, if asked. Should we increase the price and if yes by how much.

Lt Col David REYNOLDS QVRM
Editor Pegasus Journal

PRA HQ Colchester

I have received the following letter from PRA HQ informing us that he has received the following letter from Mr. Derek Baker who lives in France who has some items for sale. Please respond direct to him if you are interested.

There are 4 Pictures:

- (1) The Brigade Drop at Ginkel Heath (Arnhem)
- (2) 3 Para Drop-Gamel Airfield (Operation Muskateer)
- (3) 1 Hour Ceasefire, Oosterbeck Crossroads (Arnhem)
- (4) Corporal Tom Watts under fire sprinting over Pegasus Bridge (personally signed by Major John Howard (O.C-Assault Team) at an event at Browning Barracks March 1996.

Size of all above 3ft x 2ft, one or two inches either way, but will forward exact measurements when I unwrap one!

Lastly, very rare, 1 of only 5 in the World, a fully inflated Parachute with an Airborne Soldier at the other end, 15 inches in length 8 inches high, 8 inches wide, mounted on a polished wood base with Certificate of Authenticity stating that this is a Sterling Silver with 23ct Gold Plate ETERNAL AIRBORNE SOLDIER issued to commemorate the 40th Anniversary Airborne Forces Landing in Europe-1944, signed by Colonel G D Farrell MBE Regimental Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel J P Epplstone Regimental Secretary, this being no 3.

All of the above I have owned for quite some time and as you can imagine have very special meanings for me and I will be sad when they are gone, but one has to be realistic.

My Details are: 23486070 Pte Baker, D, No 87 Platoon, Champion Recruit, Double Marksman, then Defence Platoon, H.Q.16 Indep Parachute Brigade, 1956/59. Unfortunately Derek can only be contacted by email at sophdelbaker@orange.fr

Stuart

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



**Dave Hayward laying the wreath
at the Aldershot Cenotaph**



**Mike McRitchie after laying the wreath
at The Royal Garrison Church**



**Standard Bearer Bill Harris with the
Aldershot Branch Standard**



**Mike McRitchie leads the
Aldershot Branch on the March Past**



It was a full house in the bar



The ladies enjoy the curry



BURNS SUPPER
FRIDAY 15TH JANUARY
8PM TILL MIDNIGHT



RABBIE BURNS 1759–1796

COST £22

PIPER FROM THE SCOTS GUARDS

ENTERTAINMENT BY ALISTAIR CAMERON

BURNS SUPPER: HAGGIS, NEEPS AND TATTIES

WHISKY TRIFLE

VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Charlie, He's my Darling
'Twas on a Monday morning,
Right early in the year,
That Charlie came to our town -
The young Chevalier.

Auld Lang Syne
Should auld acquaintance be forget
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forget,
For the sake of auld lang syne?



THE BARD

Tae A' Moose
Wee, sleeket, cowran, tim'rous beastie,
O, what panic's in thy breastie!
Thou need na start awa sae hasty,
Wi' bickering brattle!
I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,
Wi' murd'ring pattle!

A Red Red Rose
O my luve's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my luve's like the melody

ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY

DRESS :- SCOTTISH ATTIRE OR LOUNGE SUIT



TICKETS AT THE BAR OR FROM STUART