



The Parachute Regimental Association Aldershot Branch Newsletter

11/2007

Nov 2007

Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Friday 2nd November 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.

Bill McCann

It is with sadness that we have to inform you of the death of Branch member Bill McCann. Bill had been suffering with lung cancer and passed away a week ago in the Abercorne Nursing Home in Cove. His Funeral will be held at the Aldershot Crematorium on Friday 2nd November at 10am. His family have invited Branch members to the Conservative Club after the funeral.

St Lawrence Jewry

A party of members are travelling up to London by train on Friday 9th November to attend the Airborne Remembrance Service in the "Airborne Church" of St Lawrence Jewry. After the service we have been invited to the City of London Police Headquarters at Wood Street Police Station. Food is provided along with refreshments at reasonable prices. I have received many enquiries since this article appeared in the last newsletter so it looks as if we will have a good representation by the Branch this year. We will be leaving Aldershot train station at 0904hrs (thanks Shane for correcting me that the train leaves at 4 minutes past nine – trust a train driver). The dress is blazers and ties.

Remembrance Sunday

The Annual Remembrance Day services will be held on Sunday 11th November. The Service at the Aldershot Cenotaph in Grosvenor Road will be at 0930hrs. The main service in the Royal Garrison Church will commence at 1045hrs but to ensure a seat you will need to arrive by 1015hrs. As in previous years the saluting base will be situated in Claycart Road. Pegasus Village is not available for the parking of vehicles this year so vehicles may be parked either side of Rushmoor Road or Bourley Road. Please ensure that you leave adequate time to park as the numbers attending normally fill the church. Vehicles displaying disabled person badges may deliver passengers to the Church door and are then to be driven away to the Wellington Statue car park. Following the Remembrance Service and March Past there will be a short service to dedicate the new Airborne Forces Memorial. Browning Barracks was opened in June 1968 by Lady Browning, widow of Lt Gen 'Boy' Browning. A memorial stone marking the opening of Depot PARA and a memorial garden to those who have served with Airborne Forces, as well as an Australian memorial, that was located in Browning Barracks, have been moved to a new home in the grounds of the Royal Garrison

Church. A new memorial of Purbeck stone has been placed in the church grounds and all three plaques from the Depot have been mounted on the stone along with a new plaque explaining the move. In addition the Golden Jubilee Memorial Garden, which was established in 1990 will also be moved and rededicated alongside the new memorial stone. After the service a curry lunch will be provided in the clubhouse. Would the members who intend to come to the clubroom after the Remembrance Day Service please park in Shoe Lane or Seeley House T.A. Centre next to Malta Barracks. Directions to Shoe Lane and the T.A. Centre will be placed at the entrance to Shoe Lane. There are over 200 recruits in attendance on that weekend and the car park will be full. We do have places in Malta Barracks for any disabled member or for those with difficulty walking.

Visit to PCAU

The visit to PCAU Brize Norton will take place on Thursday 15th November. The coach will leave from the Princes Hall, Aldershot at 0800hrs and will return at 1700hrs. Parking is available in the Warburg car park, please don't forget to pay. Major Martin Hanlon has been most helpful and has ensured me that a full program has been laid on. Our Standard Bearer, Pete Richens was his Platoon Sergeant when he was in 'P' Company so I trust he will not want to get his own back! The cost is £15 per person. This is to pay for the coach and will be payable on the day. The photo's in the next newsletter may be interesting. PCAU are laying on a buffet lunch so if you have booked a place please turn up.

Lecture at Browning Barracks

It is with sadness that I have to inform you that the very last lecture at Browning Barracks will be Operation Barrass, which was the British Operation in Sierra Leone. This will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 13 December by Colonel Matthew Lowe MBE in the Central Lecture Hall above the Airborne Forces Museum. The Museum and shop will be open from 6.30pm. Tickets are £8.50 and can be purchased either by post (sae enclosed please) or from the museum office during weekday opening times. For further information, please contact the museum.

Christmas Ball

The Christmas Ball will take place on Friday 14th December at Malta Barracks. The cost of the Ball is £28 and tickets can be obtained from Barrie Longbottom or Len Clark. Please include the attached proforma for your application for tickets. Will you please include all the first names and surnames of all those attending so that the table plan can be completed. Please indicate whether the Christmas meal or a Vegetarian meal is required. A cheque made payable to "Aldershot Branch PRA" must accompany all ticket applications along with a stamped addressed envelope. Bill Harris will be selling tickets for the raffle leading up to, and also at the event. After the successful trial of running a minibus to pick up and return members at the Summer Ball we will be running a similar minibus at the Christmas Ball. Further details will appear in the next newsletter. This event is highly popular so please book early to avoid disappointment. Barry has once again hired a minibus to assist members and guests to get to and from Malta Barracks for the Christmas Ball. We intend to have two pick up and drop off points. The first will be in Farnborough in the car park adjacent to the Tumbledown Dick Public House. The second will be the Princes Hall Aldershot. We obviously require your assistance if the pick-ups are to go smoothly. If you would like to take advantage of the transport

please contact Barry Longbottom or Len Clarke and inform them at which one of the two places you would like to be picked up. You will be dropped off at the same place you were picked up from at the end of the evening. The minibus driver is from the T.A. unit at Farnham T.A. Centre. As the driver will not be paid we request that each person pays the driver a reasonable amount when they are dropped off.

The pick up times are as follows :-

1830hrs Car park adjacent to Tumbledown Dick Public House
1850hrs 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.

National Memorial Arboretum

Our Standard Bearer Pete Richens represented the Branch at the dedication of the National Memorial, which I am sure you all observed on National television. After the service he was standing along with the other Standard Bearers when he was approached by Prince Charles, who had seen his maroon beret and Standard. After asking what Branch he represented and being told that it was the "Aldershot Branch" and our meeting night that evening Prince Charles replied "Please pass on my regards to all your members".

October Newsletter

I must hang my head in shame and apologies to Alastair Lawrie for the photo's in last month's newsletter (last photo) when I called him Alastair Cameron. The only defence I can give is that when you have two Scotsmen, both who are called Alastair and it's getting late – ok I'm sorry.

Stuart

