



The Parachute Regimental Association Aldershot Branch Newsletter

09/2008

Sep 2008

Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be held on **Friday 12th September at 2000hrs in Malta Barracks**. The meeting would normally have been held on **Friday 5th September** but has been moved due to a trip to Arnhem by many members.

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 £9.

Bar

Please note that the bar will be closed on Friday 5 September and Sunday 7 September due to the trip to Arnhem by all the bar staff and many members. The bar will reopen on Friday 12 September.

Pte Peter Cowton

Peter was killed in action in Afghanistan a month ago whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Peter lived with his family in Basingstoke and his funeral was held in the Royal Garrison Church on Thursday 14 August with burial in the Military Cemetery. The Garrison Sergeant Major (WO1) JJ Ferry was concerned that due to the short notice not many people would be able to attend. On the day the church was full with over 1,000 people and 12 Branch Standards in attendance. After the service the Branch Standards, six either side formed up at the top of the Avenue leading to the front gates. The Garrison Sergeant Major asked the congregation to join the Standards and the Avenue quickly filled up. The hearse left the church with two police motorbike outriders and proceeded down the Avenue, as it passed the Standard Bearers they dipped their Standards and the congregation bowed their heads. To show support to the family the congregation followed the hearse to the cemetery for the committal. The wake was held in the Garrison Sergeants Mess. The Garrison Sergeant Major on behalf of the family has asked me to pass on their thanks to all of the members who were able to attend.

Summer Ball

I am sorry to have to inform you that we have had to cancel the Summer Ball. This is due to illness of the organiser Barry Longbottom. We wish Barry a speedy recovery.

Southsea Spectacular

The Southsea Spectacular was a resounding success and praise must be given to the Portsmouth Branch. A lot of hard work behind the scenes ensured that the day went smoothly. The weather was kind and all those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Well done Spud for ensuring that the Harley Davidson Chapter performed again this year. Please see page 3 for photo's.

Summer BBQ

The Summer BBQ was held in Malta Barracks on Sunday 24th August. After a slow start to ticket sales the numbers gradually increased. On the day 75 adults and 21 children enjoyed a superb afternoon. The children's entertainer kept the children and quite a few mum's and dad's amused. The parents have asked that I book him again next year. Further information and photo's will appear in the next newsletter.

2 Para Reunion Club

I have received a request for the 2 Para Reunion Club to include an article regarding their Christmas function in our newsletter. I have attached a copy of their letter and booking form to this newsletter.

Remebrance Sunday

As in previous years a curry lunch will be provided in the bar after the Remembrance Day Service at the Garrison Church on Sunday 9 November. All members and guests are welcome. More details will appear in the next newsletter.

Information Request

Last month I put in a request for information regarding the whereabouts of Don Hayward. I am very pleased to tell you that Albert (Taff) Gould came up with the answer. Within an hour of Taff receiving the newsletter he emailed me with the details. Don Hayward is the secretary of the El Gamel 56 Club and is currently living in Winchester. I was able to pass on his address and telephone number to Peter Twinn, who was delighted as he had given up hope of finding him. Well done Taff.

Email Addresses

We would prefer to send out the newsletter by email so if any member has an email address and has not passed it to the secretary we would appreciate it if they did so. This saves on printing, postage, time and effort and of course on our carbon footprint. Many thanks to those members who have supplied their email address, but I am sure there must be others.

Stuart

SOUTHSEA SPECTACULAR



THE BRANCH STANDARDS
LEAD THE PARADE



A FINE GROUP OF MEN



11.07.2008

A PIPE BAND IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED,
WELL AT LEAST BY THE SCOTS



IT WOULDN'T BE THE SAME
WITHOUT THE RED DEVILS



BUDDING YOUNG HARLEY RIDERS



THE REAL THING, JOINED AT THE
FRONT BY SPUD MURPHY
IN HIS MAROON HELMET

At the end of November we were going to have a Ladies/Christmas Party as a thank you for putting up with us but given the present climate a more pressing need has arisen. The VO's (Visiting Officers) are faced with a thankless task and as always do not in my opinion receive the complete support the families deserve. There is and probably always will be a cash shortfall. We as a group have supported them and always will but it is useless to ring our hands and blame the government (it is their fault) and let us do what we have always done and be pro-active and raise funds for our fallen brothers.

To this end November has become a fund raiser for a Wounded Soldier Fund to help the VO's to fund any short falls. It is open to all Brigade members and the details are on the booking form below.

For more information contact Allen Jones at email: allen.jones1@ntlworld.com

I wish to attend the Wounded Soldier fund raising weekend at the Metropole Hotel, Blackpool between Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd November 2008.

Name.....

Address.....
.....

Unit.....

Rooms will be allocated purely on a first come first served basis. This cost is £65.00 per person for the two nights.

Cheques made payable to:- **2 Para Reunion Club**

Please return forms and cheques to: Roland Collier
63 Derby Lane
Derby
DE23 8UD

Donations and raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated.

