



SLIPSTREAM

The Newsletter of Central Scotland Branch
The Parachute Regimental Association

Issue No. 001

September 2003

GREEN ON!

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH CHAIRMAN

Well lads, it is finally here, the first edition of *SLIPSTREAM*, our very own branch newsletter. This will be published quarterly. We hope that the content is to your liking and that anything published on a humorous note does not offend anyone as this is not our intention.

Please remember that a lot of work has gone on behind the scenes to get this project up and running. Anyone with an idea or something they would like to see included (or deleted), then please approach Terry McCourt. Terry, in deliberation with the Secretary, Hugh McGarvey has worked hard to compile the notes

included in this edition by extracting information from the minutes of the previous four branch meetings. They have also included some other information that we hope meets with your approval.

Lastly, we would, I am sure, all like to thank Davie Howie who will be the man in charge of editing and publishing our newsletter. Davie is a man of true airborne tradition. Even though he is not 100% himself in the health stakes, he has kindly taken on this extra burden. He has assured us though, that he always knew that our regimental motto would come back one day, to haunt him:

UTRINQUE PARATUS!

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Would all members attending, please take the time, either before or after a meeting to talk to our membership secretary. This will allow Terry to ensure that your membership details are correct and up to date and that your dues are fully paid up.

If you are 65 years of age, or over, please speak to Terry. Those of you who have annual or associate memberships will then be reclassified as a life member. You should hand in your old membership card and receive a new one.

Honorary Membership may be bestowed on the Glasgow based PSAO and WO2s of 15 Coy, 4 PARA. A survey is being carried out on the branch meetings' attendance. Non

attendance for two years may mean exclusion from our database.

Please note that branch membership is optional and **does not** qualify as membership of the PRA which is *not optional*. If you do not have a PRA membership card with attached photograph then contact Terry ASAP.

NEW MEMBERS

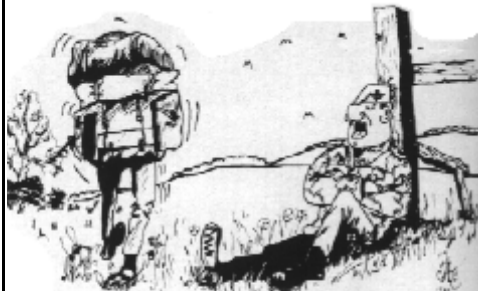
A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Cpl. Bill Clinton	2 PARA
Pte. Michael McFadden	2 PARA
John Nisbet	ex 2 & 15 PARA
David McKenzie	ex 15 PARA
William Stewart	“ ”
Malky Moran	“ ”
Ricky Nugent	“ ”

PRESENTATIONS

A special thank you to Cpl. Bill Clinton for his presentation to the branch of an inscribed silver plate. The best of luck to you and Alan on your forthcoming tour of N. I. and congratulations on your recent promotion.

A thank you also to Dave Parton who has kindly donated a clock to the branch..... It is "Yankee, Doodle.....DANDY!! Now we'll all know when it's time for Wallace to buy a round."



PUT SOME EFFORT INTO IT LAD!
I DIDNT GET WHERE I AM TODAY
BY SITTING ON MY BACKSIDE!!

OFFICE BEARERS

The following telephone numbers are supplied for branch business only. They are made available on the strict understanding that they are kept secure.

COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Lawrence Williamson
0141 613 1516

VICE-CHAIRMAN

James Carey
01236 433219

SECRETARY

Hugh McGarvey
0141 778 5001

TREASURER

Alex Kennedy
0141 562 4310

SUB-COMMITTEE

QUARTERMASTER

John MacIntyre
0141 774 7077

WELFARE SEC..

Bill McCullim
0141 810 4459

FUND-RAISING SEC.

Jack Connor
0141 632 5079

MEMBERSHIP SEC.

Terry McCourt
0141 954 1213

Useful Numbers

Veterans' Advice Unit: 08456
020302

War Pensions Agency: 01253
858 858

Airborne Forces Security Fund:
01252 320 772

Pegasus Journal: 01252 349
661

Airborne Forces Museum:
01252 349619

Army Benevolent Fund: 071
581 8684 [Confidential support line
{UK}]: 0800 731 4880

**Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
(Combat Stress):**

Diary Dates

September 8th:

Airborne Day, Trebah Gardens,
near Falmouth in Cornwall

September 8-10th

Sehestedt Germany,
The Central Branch PRA

September 19-23rd

Arnhem Pilgrimage

September 22nd

Dedication of Colours, Aberdeen
Branch PRA

October 5th

PRA AGM Norfolk

October 19th

Wos' & Sgts' (Past & Present
Dinner), Colchester

October 20-21st

Standard Bearers Competition
ATR Bassingbourne

November 5-13th

SAMA Commemoration Visit to
the Falkland Islands

November 7th

Field of Remembrance,
Westminster Abbey

November 8th

Memorial Service, St. Lawrence
Jewry

November 10th

Remembrance Sunday

February 1st 2003

Burns Supper.

Central Branch PRA

BRANCH NEWS

Volunteers Wanted!

Jack Connor and his merry band of collectors continue to raise money for the branch. Jack has produced a “hit list” of places to visit and recently, he and his “Merry Men” raised a collection of £1100 at Braehead. Jack inherited the mantle from Sam Brown, who was formerly “The Man” (has he had a sex change then). Sam, who has done *sterling* [groan! - Ed.] work in this field, has now decided to hand over to a younger chap. **JACK?!!**

Volunteers are more than welcome to assist in these collections as sometimes, Jack has been a one-man band. If you can spare the time, why not approach Jack, look at his calendar of events and help if you can.

Sehedtedt

£400 is planned to be made available to the Sehedtedt village welfare group in appreciation of the hospitality shown to our members on previous visits.

Aberdeen

The new Northern Region Secretary, John Dingwall, has informed us that it is hoped to have the Northern Region’s Annual Parade to coincide with Aberdeen Branch’s

Colour Dedication Service in September 2002.

Anyone who plans to attend should please note that it is not an overnight stop. If you are interested, please give your name to the Vice-Chairman as soon as possible.

Cornwall

Cornwall Branch’s attempt to change the name of the PRA has been rejected. They have been informed that if they change their name locally then they will no longer be part of the PRA.

Recruitment

Recruitment into the regular battalions is going well. There is now an eighteen month waiting list for potential recruits. Recruitment into the branch is also picking up. Keep up the good work lads.

Account & Funding

It is planned to have a Regional Secretaries’ Account and Funding set-up. After some deliberation with the other branches and in the face of some opposition, the idea was approved.

Korea

It is hoped to have John Braidwood attend the Korean Veterans

Parade. Wallace McKie is handling the details.

Burns Supper

Groundwork has been laid with 15 Coy. 4 PARA to host a Branch Burns Supper on the 1st February 2003 (TBC). It will only be a success if we all participate. If we all participate it can be a success leading to it becoming an annual event. Get the date into your diaries lads.

The Q.M.

The wee baldy bloke [Terry's words, not mine - Ed.] has various items for sale. He has acquired Branch ties and will order any out of stock items required.

Internet

The new web address for the Branch Web site is due to be up and running any day now. A lot of work has gone into it:

www.central.pra.co.uk

A lot of work has gone into it so go on and pay it a visit. You could even sign the Guestbook.

Golden Jubilee

A letter was gratefully received from Buckingham Palace, thanking our Branch members for their loyal show of support to Her Majesty The Queen during her majesty's Golden Jubilee celebrations this year.

Funds

The Branch funds are looking healthy with £11,935 in the bank, as at August 2nd.

The One & Only

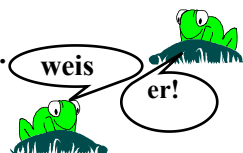
Pat Blake, who has dealt with the PRA membership is due to retire. It is hoped that she will be presented with a National Award. Pat will leave with many thankful plaudits ringing in her ears. Ours not the least.

Guest Appearance

At the July meeting we were privileged to have in our company, Herr Otte Fedders from Seheted in Germany. He read out a letter from the mayor of his town Frau Rita Koop, in which she sends her best wishes to all the Branch members and looks forward to meeting old acquaintances when at least fifteen members visit in September.

Otte was quick to pick up our drinking habits and as the day wore on it was reckoned that he was speaking our native tongue better than "Uncle" Frank! It only goes to show what a few drams can do to the voice box!

Cheers Bud!...



PEARSON'S PEOPLE

2224606 Private Andrew Young

C Company, 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment

Operation Biting - The Bruneval Raid. In February 1942, the Parachute Regiment was called on to carry out a daring "behind the lines" raid, of vital importance to the War Office. The aim of the mission, known as Operation Biting, was to seize parts of a top-secret German radar installation (a Wurzburg precision radar dish), which was one of a series of early warning installations on the North coast of France.

Admiral Lord Mountbatten had proposed the raid, after it became clear that this established chain of radar stations was of significant importance to the Luftwaffe, who were inflicting heavy losses on RAF Bomber Command. However, the radar posts were heavily defended against attack from the sea with machine guns looking down onto the beach and hidden barbed wire surrounding the radars. It was a task only airborne troops could accomplish.

September 1942 When the RAF brought back pictures of a radar system near Le Havre, situated high on an isolated cliff top near the village of Bruneval, the Chief of Combined Op-

erations agreed to mount a recovery raid aimed at bringing elements of the dish back to Britain for scientific research that would result in measures being developed to jam its operation.

The task was given to my Company - C Company (Charlie) 2 PARA, otherwise known within the brigade as 'Jock' company, for it's high contingent of troops from Scottish regiments. We were to be dropped into France in three separate groups and would carry out our mission with the support of an RAF radar expert and then be picked up by a mini flotilla of six Royal Navy landing craft.



**Andrew Young
at RAF Bulford**

On the night of February 27th 1942, our 120-strong force took off from Thrupton Aerodrome in a fleet of 12 converted Whitley bombers, each carrying 10 men. The weather conditions were perfect — no wind, frost or snow.

We were dropped at 275ft, a little inland from our objective, and were met by enemy fire on landing. I went straight to the containers that held our weapons and armed myself with a Sten gun. At the radar installation, I helped to attack a nearby house occu-

pied by Germans whilst the radar was captured for long enough to enable vital parts to be removed. The remaining parts were blown up. We took two prisoners, including one German radar expert, but all of the other Germans were killed. The Company had suffered two men killed and five badly injured.

On the run to the beach where we were to rendezvous with Major Frost we slid down a path covered with ice — the weather in France was colder than it had been in back in Britain. Unfortunately, none of the wirelasses we carried were working and therefore we were unable to contact the landing craft at sea that were waiting to pick us up.

Major Frost was against firing his pistol to attract the landing craft in case this simply served to alert more of the enemy in the area. However, he quickly decided that there was no other option and fired his pistol into the air. The landing craft responded to the shot and we were picked up. We set sail for Gosport where the injured were transferred to hospital whilst the rest of the Company sailed on to Portsmouth. At Portsmouth we embarked the Prince Albert and were greeted by Admiral Lord Mountbatten.

The information obtained from the radar parts we captured played a vital

part in enabling RAF Bomber Command to penetrate the German aerial defences. Indeed, the operation was so successful that it attracted applause from Prime Minister Winston Churchill and guaranteed the Paras war-time future. The Company also received a visit from King George VI and his wife to thank us all for our efforts.



Andrew Young at the Bruneval Memorial

Nine months after the Bruneval raid I was to serve with Frost again (he had been promoted to Lt. Col.) when 2 PARA was tasked with mounting an operation against the enemy held airfields near

Depienne, 30 miles south of Tunis. However, that is another story....



C Coy. 2 PARA returning from the successful Bruneval Raid

SICK PARADE



The following members are suffering ill health:

- ◆ **Tom Burgess**
- ◆ **Walter Howitt**
- ◆ **David Martin**
- ◆ **Jim Stein**
- ◆ **John Braidwood**

All the members wish you well and look forward to seeing you "on parade" soon

If any member knows of any of our brethren who are ill and/or in need of financial help, please contact the Welfare Secretary, or failing that, another member of the committee, with the details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A smoker is being planned by the Vice-Chairman. Details are yet to be confirmed.

Jack Connor will be organising a drink or two at the Clockwork Bar. Again details are to be confirmed. Members from other Associations may be invited along.

Do you want to renew your WO's and Sgt's Past and Present Dinner Club membership? Contact the Membership Secretary.

Bert Stone gave Cumbernauld RAFA branch a spiel on "Arnhem and Normandy". (Well done, young man!!)

A visit to Erskine Hospital is being planned. No are details available yet.

LAST POST



John Harris	2001
Denis Inglis (Jnr.)	2001
Alex Dunbar	June 2002
James McCarthy	July 2002
Tam McEwan	July 2002

May the defence of the Most High be above and beneath, around and within us, in our going out and in our coming in. In our rising up and in our going down, through all our days and all our night, until the dawn when the Son of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings for all the peoples of the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

*(The Parachute Regiment
&
Airborne Forces Collect)*

The next edition of *SLIPSTEAM* will be out on 1st. December 2002. If you have any stories, photographs, etc., please pass them to a member of the committee, or post to the editor.

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Some items may require editing to fit the space available. If photos, etc. Are posted then please include a stamped addressed envelope. Computer images should, if possible be saved in TIF or GIF format.