



REGIMENTAL COMMEMORATION DAY 14th JUNE 2025

Good day, All PRA Branches and PFAOCA

Introduction

I am sure you will all know from the monthly Newsletter, sent out by RHQ PRA, that the above event will once again be taking place at the NMA Alrewas on Saturday 14th June 2025. After contact with the National Secretary, Maj (Retd) Paul Raison, and with his authority, I have taken on the mantle to continue the evening dinner, which is now renamed, The Regimental Commemoration Dinner. Regarding the weekend there will be little change from past years:

- a. RHQ Parachute Regimental Association (PRA) will control all aspects of the Regimental Commemoration at the NMA, including the lunch.
- b. I will undertake the evening dinner arrangements in the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry.

Dinner Administration

This dinner is family friendly and open to all PRA/PFAOCA Members, wife/partners and friends.

In past years this dinner has mainly been concentrated on the Midlands Region Branches of the PRA; plus, it also served as the Annual Reunion Dinner for 23/144 PFAOCA. It is my aim now to extend this to all Regional Branches of the PRA nationwide, plus all other Airborne Associations.

I have therefore taken out a contract with the Royal Court Hotel (RCH), Coventry, which I feel is cost-effective and acceptable in price and value in today's present financial climate. After negotiations with the events team, I can confirm an agreement has been reached to continue along the lines of the service we have received in the past year. I will be the main point of contact on behalf of RHQ Parachute Regimental Association and 23/144 PFAOCA for dinner.

The Royal Court Hotel is now under new management and is part of the Elite group of hotels, much improvement has been made and is still ongoing. I have reserved several rooms at a discounted rate (note these rooms are for members attending the Remembrance dinner on a deal, and will be closely monitored). Any other member not attending the dinner who requires accommodation in the RCH will be subject to normal hotel accommodation charges and should make their own bookings accordingly.

Roy Hatch BEM TD Broadgrounds Gibraltar Lane Broadwell Warwickshire CV23 8EX
The cutoff date for accommodation and dinner bookings is 23rd May 2025, the accommodation deal is limited and prioritized to members attending the dinner therefore it is within your own interest book early to avoid disappointment

Dinner Venue

The Royal Court Hotel (RCH), Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry CV7 8JG
It will be easily seen that if members are prepared to share the cost of a twin room the deal is even more cost effective.

This is a one, two or three-night package deal depending on individual preference.

Friday 13th June Single room, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast £95

Friday 13th June Double or Twin room, Dinner Bed & Breakfast (2 sharing) £125

Saturday 14th June Single room, Bed & Breakfast £80,
(Remembrance Dinner Night)

Saturday 14th June Double or Twin, Bed & Breakfast (2 sharing) £95
(Remembrance Dinner Night)

Sunday 15th June Single room, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast £95

Sunday 15th Double or Twin, Dinner Bed & Breakfast (2 sharing) £125

The above rates have been agreed with the hotel and are for PRA/PFAOCA members who will be attending the Saturday night dinner. Members who live locally and do not need accommodation should not be put off attending.

Room Bookings

Accommodation can be booked from 2nd December 2024 by phone direct to the hotel. Contact number 02476334171; go to option 2 Events and ask for Elka or Stacey. (Please note, the events team do not work at weekends). On contact with the events team, confirm that you are booking for the PRA/PFA Regimental Commemoration dinner. No money will be taken from your account

until you book in on arrival at the hotel. However, due to new hotel terms and conditions you will be asked to supply a credit/debit card number. If you need to cancel your room booking, you can do so up to 48 hours before the event.

Failure to cancel in the stated time above will result in full payment being taken from your card. Remember places are limited, so it's first come first served.

Dinner with Wine

The cost of the dinner on Saturday evening is £45 per person, and will include Starter, Main, Dessert, Cheese board, plus wine, and music.

Payment for the Remembrance Dinner, the preferred method is by direct bank transfer BAC. However, it can be made by one of the following methods

- a. Cash in hand at any branch meeting, (Bedworth PRA)
- b. Cheques made payable to 23/144 PFA OCA, and posted to my home address: Mr. R Hatch BEM TD, Broadgrounds, Gibraltar Lane, Broadwell Warwickshire CV23 8EX

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- c. Direct payment into the 23/144 PFA OCA account, this being: -
Sort code **30-91-66 Account Number 00704998** (If using this method of payment please ensure that you put your name as reference to the transaction)

Dinner bookings can be made on receipt of this letter. No dinner refunds can be made after the 04th June 2025

The final cutoff date for dinner payments is 4TH June 2025

Bar Service

On Friday the lounge bar will be in use by other guests outside of our group. The bar we will use on Friday afternoon and during the evening will be the Balmoral bar at the bottom end of the hotel with the outside tables overlooking the garden area. **Please note that all bars are now cashless/card only.**

Saturday before and after dinner we will have the use of both bars. The Lounge bar, which will be open from 1700hrs, plus the Balmoral bar which will be open all afternoon and evening.

I have negotiated with the hotel, a 'happy hour' drinks costing for members attending the dinner weekend. This 'happy hour' will cover the whole of the weekend from Friday to Sunday. A wristband will be issued to members on booking in at reception, please wear this to gain the agreed costings:

£3.75 per pint of Tetley Bitter, Carlsberg Poretti or Somerset Cider

£4.50 per pint of Guinness

£3.75 Per 125 ml Glass of house wine

£3.75 per 25 ml shot of house spirits

All other drinks are served at full hotel price

Hotel Booking in/Reception

On booking in you will be given a welcome letter and a wrist band, to be worn when ordering drinks at 'happy hour' price.

Friday evening dinner will be in Jenny's Restaurant with 2 sittings: -
1st sitting 1830 hrs. 2nd sitting 1930 hrs.

On booking in you will be required to request your preference on dinner sitting. Once the first sitting is full you will have to accept the alternative.

Dress

Friday is Casual.

Saturday Dinner night, Lounge Suit or Blazer, Regimental tie etc., medals are not required. I am far too wise to tell our ladies how to dress

Hotel Facilities

The hotel has a swimming pool, gym and coffee bar, all the facilities are open to PRA/PFA members booked into the hotel, all areas have easy accessibility to wheelchairs.

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Coach Travel RCH to NMA

A coach will be available for all staying at the hotel, going to the NMA Alrewas on the morning of the Remembrance event Para/PFA, wife/partner friends; First come first served. If you/your wife or partner or friends wish to take advantage of the coach to the NMA Saturday morning a small cost will be levied at £6 per person, £10 per couple.

Please confirm in your dinner returns, if you wish to travel by coach, travel money should be paid in advance along with your dinner payment ie:

- * Dinner plus single paying person coach travel would be £51.
- * Couple dinner plus coach travel would be £98.

Your name will then be registered for coach travel. Only those who have registered, and paid in advance, will be guaranteed a coach seat, payment on the day will be available pending seats available. **Coach booking can be made on receipt of this letter.**

Parking at the Hotel

The hotel has ample free parking to accommodate our numbers. However, please remember to book your vehicle in on the monitors at the reception desk. Failure to book in will result in a parking fine.

Parking at the NMA

If you plan to travel by your own vehicle from the hotel to the NMA, please take note of the following;

- pre booked parking is £4, click on the link to book:
<https://www.maximcloud.co.uk/nationalmemorialarboretum/day/>
- parking not booked in advance is £6 on arrival

The contact number for the NMA is 01283245100.

Directions

The hotel has easy access from the M1, M6, M42, and M69. Coventry has a main line station with connections from most parts of the country. If flying, the nearest airport is Birmingham; which has a 15-minute direct train service from the Airport to Coventry.

PRA AGM

If members are planning to attend the PRA AGM, the hotel is approximately 35 minutes' drive from the NMA Alrewas. The meeting starts at 1030hrs in the Aspects Building. Details will be published when available.

Summary

Over the next months I will be putting out reminders to this dinner event; therefore, should you have any questions at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone.

Regards Roy Hatch
Capt (Retd) BEM TD
07730977989
Email: royhatchbem48@gmail.com

Roy Hatch BEM TD Broadgrounds Gibraltar Lane Broadwell Warwickshire CV23 8EX

Dinner Menu

A selection of special dietary meals can be made available on request, please inform me if you have any dietary needs.

Starter, please indicate the starter you require with dinner payment

Prawn Cocktail with a Marie Rose sauce

Pate du Maison On Focaccia

Melon

Main Course

British Braised Beef with a red wine reduction

Served with a selection of seasonal vegetables & roast potatoes

Dessert

Apple, Cinnamon & Wild Berry Crumble served with Custard

Cheese Board

Selection of British Cheese with Crackers, Chutney & Fresh fruit

Freshly Brewed Coffee & Tea and Minted Chocolates