

The Jumper

Volume 10 Issue 3 June 2011



The Parachute Regimental Association Aberdeen Branch

HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, honorary branch life member

From, The Chairman and the Branch Trustees
Gentlemen,

Come all Ye Airborne Faithful It's Airborne Forces Day Scotland 2011

ABFD will take place on 23 July 2011 in Dalkeith. A 49 seater Central Taxis & Coaches coach c/w toilet for the day out to Dalkeith is booked and paid for. The coach hire cost is £545 and is there for you to use. We have 49 seats that need bums on them so gentlemen all those who, over the past months, expressed an interest in attending ABFD 2011 now need to come out to join the day! The coach will be outside the Sportsman's club on Saturday 23rd June at 0715 and will depart 0730. (0745 very latest) We will stop and pick up on the main route out of the Granite City and on the main road South but we do not have time to go into the suburbs. Please let myself or any of the committee know that you would like to go to ABFD by coach. Note branch members have first call on seats. However, if there is little support, and to make full use of the coach hire, members wives and partners may attend but please let us know in advance as there are only 49 seats.....I look forward to your support for the day out to ABFD.

As ever with ABFD we have a reciprocal agreement between branches to try and sell the hosting branch's fund raising raffle books. On this occasion Lothian being the hosting branch have elected to sell their raffles at £1 each or £10 per book. First prize is £300 in cash, 2nd prize is £150 in cash with the 3rd cash prize being £50. There is also a raft of other prizes such as televisions, video combi and a mountain bike so please try and purchase as many raffles as you can to assist Lothian with ABFD cost. Bring tickets and money with you on the day at the very latest.

Tributes have been paid to a great British Paratrooper



Corporal Lloyd Newell of The Parachute Regiment was killed in Afghanistan on Thursday 16 June 2011. Cpl Newell was fatally wounded by small arms fire whilst on operations in Helmand province. Corporal Lloyd Newell was a man of integrity and principle. He was a natural and talented soldier who loved his work and the military lifestyle. He personified the great British Paratrooper – selfless, humble, cheerful and utterly reliable. He did his duty, relishing discomfort as a personal test, and always acting in the greater interests of the team. He attracted friends easily and cared deeply for those around him. His friendship was cherished by all. He was devoted to his wife and their nine-week-old daughter. Their family unit had the strength born of true love and kinship. Their loss is unimaginable. His vitality was palpable, his dignity natural, his humour refreshing. The latest death

brings the total number of UK troops who have died since operations in Afghanistan began in 2001 to 374. The Sun newspaper claimed that Cpl Newell was serving with SAS, however the MOD remained tight lipped about his unit or his mission, none the less, we salute our Airborne Brother.

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On the same vain I came across the following very sad but interesting story about our Airborne brothers of the 101st Airborne

With 131 soldiers dead in Afghan attacks, famed 101st Airborne Division returns home with heaviest losses since Vietnam



© U.S. Army

Under attack: Members of the 101st Airborne Division perilously close to an explosion in Afghanistan

The soldiers of the Army's famed 101st Airborne Division deployed to Afghanistan confident their counterinsurgency expertise would once again turn a surge strategy into a success, but instead they are headed home uncertain of lasting changes on the battlefield. As the division's 24,000 soldiers return to Fort Campbell from their one-year deployment, doubts remain in the military that security in Afghanistan can last without a significant U.S. military presence for years. The division brought effective counterinsurgency lessons from Iraq, but is still waiting to see whether those strategies can take hold in Afghanistan. What progress was made in improving security and governance came at a high price: The division known as the Screaming Eagles lost 131 soldiers, the most killed in a single deployment for the unit since Vietnam, with many more wounded or injured. The 101st has been a force in America's major conflicts since World War II, when it was first formed for the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy. In the eyes of many of the troops returning to Fort Campbell on the Kentucky-Tennessee line, they spent the year chasing ghosts across mountain ridges and feeling frustrated by the slow pace of the nearly ten-year war.

GATES' UNEASE ABOUT TROOP WITHDRAWAL

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates, who is retiring at the end of the month, expressed concerns on Sunday about pulling troops out of Afghanistan too soon. Addressing troops on a two-day farewell trip to remote U.S. bases in Afghanistan, he said: 'For my money, the question is — if it were up to me, I would leave the shooters for last.' Shooter is military slang for a combat soldier. Many in the military have said the first to withdraw should be support troops, not combat forces. But it's not clear if that would fit President Obama's drawdown plan. 'It is very hard to see change,' said Capt. Tye Reedy. 'It was very hard to get that across to my soldiers.' The 101st had plenty of veterans from the Iraq troop surge in 2007, where they learned to protect the population and isolate them from the enemy, a counterinsurgency approach drafted by Gen. David Petraeus, who once led the division during the invasion of Iraq. While the Iraq surge was credited with scoring progress in that war, many of the division's leaders said their challenge in Afghanistan was to keep soldiers focused in the face of setbacks. 'They have to accept that it was worth it,' said Col. Andrew Poppas, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, which lost 39 soldiers. 'It was a fight that needed to happen and no soldier died in vain.' When explaining what the division accomplished in the year at war, the division's commander, Maj. Gen. John F. Campbell, can rattle off statistics from memory — thousands of weapons caches found, thousands of insurgent fighters killed and dozens of districts with improved security. But the one figure he often ends with is the number of soldiers under his command who were killed. In the line of fire: Soldiers' relations with Afghan locals became strained at times Sense of disillusionment: Many soldiers are reflecting on the heavy losses incurred in the past year

A fallen hero just 19

The most recent 101st casualty of the conflict in Afghanistan was Private 1st Class Anthony M. Nunn, who died last Monday of wounds suffered from an explosive device Mr Nunn, 19, of Burnet, Texas, died while on patrol in the Nike District of Paktika provi He joined the Army in June 2010 and arrived at Fort Campbell in October 2010. Mr Nunn's awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defence Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon and Combat Infantry Badge. He is survived by his father Ted, mother Christina, brother Matthew and sister Savanna. Campbell kept note cards with the names and photos of each soldier, held together by a rubber band in his uniform's pocket. By the end of the deployment, the stack was as thick as a paperback book. On six different occasions over the year, the division lost five or more soldiers in a single event, including a helicopter crash, suicide attacks and heavy fighting. Campbell described those losses in military lingo. 'We had some very, very kinetic events,' he said after arriving home at Fort Campbell. But

he said the hardships bonded the troops in an indelible way. 'Each time you go visit those soldiers after one of those things, they are there fighting for their buddy on their left or right,' Campbell said. Some of the heaviest fighting came near the end of their deployment in early spring as they attempted to wrest control from insurgents who were coming over the Pakistan border in eastern Afghanistan. 'My company, or my two platoons, we landed on 150 hardened Taliban fighters and lost three men, injured another three,' said Reedy, 28, commander of Charlie Company, 2-327 Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team. 'That's one operation on the border.' In addition to fighting, troops also worked to train their Afghan military counterparts. But the relationship was strained at times, especially after incidents like one in November when a lone gunman from the Afghan Border Police shot and killed six soldiers from the division. Cpl. Andrew Barnett, 28, from B Company, 2-327 Infantry Regiment, said trusting Afghans was difficult, especially when his unit got an intelligence report that indicated Afghan soldiers were communicating with insurgent fighters about their positions at a combat outpost in Kunar province. 'It's kind of frustrating because we're supposed to be nice and friendly and try to help them out, and we've got these guys who have infiltrated or are paying their buddies to give information,' Barnett said. But 101st soldiers also took pride in helping develop the Afghan military and police into professional forces as the number of AWOL soldiers decreased and Afghan leaders took more independent control over security. Good to be home: A soldier from the 101st Airborne Division takes a moment to stretch after returning to Fort Campbell following his year in Afghanistan That will likely be the division's lasting legacy after this year in Afghanistan. As Reedy looks back on the tour, he tries to remind his soldiers that counterinsurgency isn't a quick fix. 'Everything we do every day is building toward the end state,' Reedy said. 'Leaving it a little better for the next unit and then they build on it.'

Six die in one attack by insurgents in Kandahar

Six 101st Airborne Division soldiers died of their wounds after insurgents attacked their unit with an explosive device in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, on May 26. They were assigned to Fox Company, (Pathfinder), 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade. The killed soldiers were First Lt. John Marshall Runkle Jr., 27, of West Salem, Ohio, who joined the Army in June 2006; Staff Sgt. Edward David Mills, of New Castle, Pa., who joined the Army in January 2005; Staff Sgt. Ergin Vidot Osman, 35, of Harrison Township, Michigan, who joined the Army in March 1998; Sergeant Louie Ramosvelazquez, 39, of Camy, Puerto Rico, who joined the Army in December 2006; Sergeant Thomas Andrew Bohall, 25, of Bel Aire, Kansas, who joined the Army in August 2005; Specialist Adam James Patton, 21, of Port Orchard, Washington, who joined the Army in June 2008.

Big fat gypsy blockade

A FURIOUS landowner sent a group of travellers packing - after building a blockade to trap them on his private property.



Gene Abel (ex B coy XV Para) stopped the group leaving the site until they agreed to take their caravans away for good. And after the final vehicle drove off his land near Loirston Loch, Aberdeen, the 61-year-old said: "They said they were there for the summer. It's my property so I can do what I want. "They wanted to go out in their cars in the day to work and were telling me they needed in and out. "I played them at their own game and it worked." The travellers moved in on Wednesday and Gene gave them the chance to move their six caravans or face being trapped. When they refused, he created the blockade by parking trucks and cars

in front of the entrance. His original plan was to stop more vans arriving - but it also meant the travellers couldn't use their cars to come and go. Grampian Police were drafted in to monitor the situation, but the travellers moved off his property just 36 hours after arriving. And Gene revealed he had another idea to get rid of them if the blockade hadn't worked. He said: "I was going to go in with my muck spreader and spray pig muck everywhere."

Three win top scratch card prize on same flight



Ryanair has launched an enquiry after three passengers on the same flight each won a car worth £11,500 after playing its in-flight scratch card game. The three passengers, who were flying from Milan to Madrid last Monday, won the prize after buying one of the airline's £2 scratch cards, despite an average of one car being won each month. The airline blamed a printing error by Brandforce, the company which runs the game, but has promised that all three winners will receive their vehicles. Ryanair began selling scratch cards in 2008 in an attempt to further increase its additional or "ancillary" revenues. Around a quarter of the airline's annual earnings are generated by ancillary revenues. Its extra charges, including check-in fees, booking fees and luggage charges have increased by up to 700 per cent since 2006. Last month, Ryanair was criticised for imposing an additional £2 charge on all bookings to insure itself against flight cancellations, while next month it will allow passengers to reserve individual seats for the first time, at a cost of £8.80 per person per flight, on services from Dublin Airport to Gatwick and Malaga.

Branch management committee

This was discussed at last month's branch meeting and is repeated here as it is an extremely important item. It's worth informing and reminding everyone that, come the AGM of 2011, there will be several of the founding committee who have given 10 years service to the running of the Aberdeen branch. I, and they, believe it's only fair that these committee members, including myself, stand aside and make room for a fresh committee. We will be seeking nominations at the AGM for a new chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer. There is also room for a few more committee members to assist on the side. I'll continue to bring this to the table over the next few months, and the October AGM will be here quicker than you think, so think hard about what **you** might do for the Aberdeen branch of the Parachute Regimental Association! Any branch's survival depends on volunteers stepping up to the plate and taking some responsibility for the running of the branch. We've done 10 years. Could you do a few?

Everyone seems to be in such a hurry to scream 'racism' these days

A customer asked "In what aisle could I find the Irish sausages?" The assistant asks "Are you Irish?" The guy, clearly offended says "Yes I am. But let me ask you something. "If I had asked for Italian sausage would you ask me if I was Italian? Or if I had asked for German Bratwurst would you ask me if I was German? Or if I asked for a kosher hot dog would you ask me if I was Jewish? Or if I had asked for a Taco would you ask if I was Mexican? Or if I asked for Polish sausage would you ask if I was Polish?" The assistant says "No I probably wouldn't the guy says "Well then, because I asked for Irish sausages why did you ask me if I'm Irish?" The assistant replied "Because you're in Halfords."

Best Regards

Bob Crocker, Chairman

Aberdeen Branch The Parachute Regimental Association

C/o The Sportsman's Club, 11 Queens Road Aberdeen AB15 4LY, Tel 01224 322795.

Chairman Bob Crocker Tel/Fax 01224 852361 (office), Mobile 07800612022

robert.crockerpr@btinternet.com

www.aberdeenpra.co.uk

Remember Meetings now start at 1930

Next Branch meeting takes place on Wednesday 29th June 2011, 1900 hours for 1930 hours

To Airborne, the world O'er, Shall brithers be for a' that

Disclaimer.

The Aberdeen Branch of The Parachute Regimental Association issue a disclaimer concerning any article or idea passed to branch members by way of this newsletter. This newsletter provides a conduit between the branch members to allow ideas, articles and topics to be viewed and discussed by its members. Although these ideas, articles and topics appear in this newsletter it does not necessarily reflect the view of the trustees or the membership.