

MEMORIALS TO AIRBORNE FORCES AT THE ROYAL GARRISON CHURCH, ALDERSHOT

1. On Sunday 2nd June 1967, the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints was dedicated as the spiritual home of The Parachute Regiment. At this time the Second World War Roll of Honour was moved from St Martin-in-the-Fields and placed beside the pulpit. Details of this and two further Rolls of Honour are given in Appendix 1. Also in this Appendix are details of the 49 Memorials to Airborne Forces and the Parachute Regiment which are contained in the Church, and a new Memorial (in 2007) erected in the grounds.
2. Since 1967, kneelers have been placed in the Church to honour the memory of men who have served in Airborne Forces. Details of these are shown at Appendix 2.
3. As of 2010 fund raising has been undertaken for a new memorial to The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces at the National Memorial Arboretum. It is due to open in 2012.
4. 2012 will see the unveiling of a memorial to those who took part in Operation Biting, Bruneval, France. The stone will contain the names of all those who took part in the operation.

ROLLS OF HONOUR AND MEMORIALS AT THE ROYAL GARRISON CHURCH, ALDERSHOT

ROLLS OF HONOUR

1. Second World War 1939 – 1945. The Roll of Honour “To the Glorious Memory of the Officers and Men who gave their lives whilst serving with The Parachute Regiment and 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion during the Second World War 1939 – 1945.” Is placed beside the pulpit. It was originally located in St Martin-in-the-Field. It contains the names of 2,192 Officers and Men of The Parachute Regiment and 130 Officers and Men of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. A page is turned each week by the Church Warden. The format used is that of a daily calendar. The Roll of Honour is placed in a wooden cabinet.
2. Roll of Honour Since The Second World War. Situated in the South East corner of the Church, this Roll of Honour, which is in a locked wooden cabinet, contains the names of all the Officers and Men who have died whilst serving in the Parachute Regiment. The names are listed in the year in which they died. A page is turned each week by the Church Warden.
3. 12th (Yorkshire) Battalion Roll of Honour. The Roll of Honour “to the Glorious Memory of the Officers and Men of the 12th (Yorkshire) Battalion The Parachute Regiment who gave their lives in North West Europe during the Second World War 1939 – 1945” records the names of 163 Officers and Men in Alphabetical Order. This is an exact replica, both of the Roll of Honour and wooden cabinet, of the originals which are in St Mary’s Church, Richmond.

MEMORIALS IN THE CHURCH

4. There are 49 memorials in the Church. Forty six of the memorials are in the form of pew ends carved in wood to units and formations which have association with Airborne Forces. These are listed in Table One. Details of the other 3 are as follows:
 - a. Memorial to General Browning. On Sunday 30th June 1968 at a Church Parade following Airborne Forces Day the memorials to all the formations and units were dedicated. At the same time a bronze tablet bearing the “Pegasus” Airborne Forces badge, enamelled in light blue and maroon, and the inscription “In Memory of Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick (Boy) Browning GCVO KBE CB DSO, Grenadier Guards, 1896 – 1965 Founder and

Commander of the Airborne Forces in the Second World War,” was dedicated. It is placed on the pillar adjacent to the pulpit.

b. The Parachute Regiment Memorial. The memorial was dedicated on Sunday 18th September 1983. It is a bronze plaque carved to fit the central pillar above the lectern and shaped to match the Browning Memorial. At the top of the plaque there is a silver leaf Parachute Regiment badge backed on maroon, below which is super-imposed a bronze Parachute Regiment soldier. The following words are inscribed on the plaque: “To the glory of God and in memory of all ranks who gave their lives whilst serving with the Parachute Regiment.” Utrinque Paratus.¹ The fixing screws at the corner of the plaque are decorated with the Tudor Rosette, the Scottish Thistle, the Welsh Leek and the Irish Shamrock.

c. MMG PI 2 PARA Memorial. An unofficial memorial plaque to 5 members of the MMG PI, 2 PARA killed at Warrenpoint hangs near the Browning Memorial.

d. Colours. Details of the locations of all Regimental Colours, including those in the Royal Garrison Church are in Part 1, Annex H, Appendix 1, of the Historical Record.

MEMORIALS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

5. On Sunday 11th November 2007, a new memorial was dedicated at the Garrison Church of All Saints in Aldershot. The memorial was created to commemorate the 60 years that Aldershot was home to the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces. It incorporates two existing memorials from Browning Barracks, plus the plaque commemorating the opening of Browning Barracks by Lady Browning in 1968. The first memorial was “Dedicated to the Memory of all those who gave their lives whilst serving in Airborne Forces” and was donated by the Airborne Associations of Australia. The second memorial was the Golden Jubilee Memorial Garden to those who served in Airborne Forces from 1940 to 1990. The garden was created in 1990 and contains “Red Beret” Roses, which have been moved to the new memorial garden along with the topsoil on which many of the Veterans had left instructions that their ashes should be scattered.

The new memorial is a large piece of “rough cut” Purbeck Stone from Dorset, into which the plaques have been set. It stands on a base of stone slabs which, in turn, is surrounded on three sides by the Memorial Rose Garden and is sited in a peaceful location on the South side of the Garrison Church.

The memorial was blessed after the Remembrance Day Service by the Right Reverend Paul Abram and a wreath laid by Brigadier Chip Chapman representing the Colonel Comandant of the Parachute Regiment.

Regimental Headquarters, the Parachute Regiment, would like to thank all those individuals who gave donations towards the cost and, in particular, the D Company 1 PARA (51-56) Association, whose generous donation paid for the new commemorative plaque.

¹ Memorials in the Royal Garrison Church

MEMORIALS IN THE ROYAL GARRISON CHURCH

1. The Browning Memorial.
2. The Parachute Regiment Memorial.
- (3 – 48 are pew ends in Memory of:
3. 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment since 1941.
4. 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion 1942 – 1945.
5. 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment since 1941.
6. 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment since 1941.
7. 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment 1942-1947
8. 5th Battalion (Scottish) The Parachute Regiment 1942 – 1948.
9. 6th Battalion (Royal Welsh) The Parachute Regiment 1942 – 1947.
10. 7th Battalion (Light Infantry) The Parachute Regiment 1942 – 1948.
11. 8th Battalion (Midland) The Parachute Regiment 1942 – 1948.
12. 9th Battalion (Eastern and Home Counties) The Parachute Regiment 1942 – 1948.
13. 10th Battalion The Parachute Regiment 1942 - 1998.
14. 11th Battalion The Parachute Regiment 1943 – 1944.
15. 12th Battalion (Yorkshire) The Parachute Regiment 1943 – 1967.
16. 13th Battalion (Lancashire) The Parachute Regiment 1943 – 1967.
17. 15th Battalion The Parachute Regiment 1945 – 1947.
18. 16th Battalion The Parachute Regiment 1945 – 1947.
19. 17th Battalion The Parachute Regiment 1945 – 1967.
20. 156th Battalion The Parachute Regiment 1941 – 1944.
21. 21st Independent Company The Parachute Regiment 1942 – 1945.
22. 22nd Independent Company The Parachute Regiment 1943 – 1946.
23. All ranks of the Household Brigade who have served with the Parachute Regiment.
24. All ranks of the Royal Armoured Corps who have served in Airborne Forces.
25. All ranks of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who have served in Airborne Forces.
26. Royal Signals Airborne Forces since 1941.
27. Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport in Airborne Forces since 1942.
28. All ranks of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps since 1942.
29. All ranks of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who have served in Airborne Forces.
30. All ranks of Headquarters 16th Parachute Brigade since 1948.

31. Royal Engineers Airborne Forces since 1941.
 32. Headquarters 1st Airborne Division 1941 – 1945.
 33. Headquarters 6th Airborne Division 1943 – 1948
 34. Headquarters 1st Parachute Brigade 1941 – 1948.
 35. Headquarters 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade Group 1942 – 1948.
 36. Headquarters 3rd Parachute Brigade 1942 – 1948.
 37. Headquarters 4th Parachute Brigade 1942 – 1945.
 38. Headquarters 5th Parachute Brigade 1943 – 1946.
 39. 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade Group 1941 – 1947.
 40. 1st Airlanding Brigade:1 Border
 - 7 KOSB
 - 2 South Stafford
 - 1941 – 1945
 41. 6th Airlanding Brigade:12 Devons
 - 2 Ox and Bucks
 - 1 RUR
 - 1943 – 1948
 42. Headquarters 16th Airborne Division (TA) 1947 – 1956.
 43. 1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron Reconnaissance Corps 1941 – 1945.
 44. All ranks The Royal Army Medical Corps and The Royal Army Dental Corps who served in Airborne Forces since 1941
 45. All ranks Headquarters Airborne Troops and 1st British Airborne Corps 1943 – 1945.
 46. All ranks of Headquarters 46th Parachute Brigade (TA) 1952 – 1956.
 47. All ranks of Headquarters 45th Parachute Brigade (TA) 1952 – 1956.
 48. All ranks of Headquarters 44th Parachute Brigade (TA) 1952 – 1978
 49. To Five Comrades of MMG PI 2 PARA killed in Action 27th August 1979.
 - A. Roll of Honour Second World War 1939 – 1945.
 - B. Roll of Honour since The Second World War.
 - C. 12th (Yorkshire) Battalion Roll of Honour (Replica).
- Above the aisle hang Old Colours of:
- 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment.
 - 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment.
 - 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment.
 - 13th (Lancashire) Battalion The Parachute Regiment.
 - 18th (8 Royal Warwick) Battalion The Parachute Regiment