



British Paratroopers, Airborne Forces Day Scotland Returns to Dundee

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Today, Friday, July 17, marks the start of the **Airborne Forces Day Scotland 2026** in Dundee, the major gathering dedicated to British paratroopers, veterans, and all those who have served in airborne units.

The event, organized by the Tayside branch of the **Parachute Regimental Association**, will continue until Sunday, July 19, with reunions among comrades, public initiatives, demonstrations, and moments dedicated to the memory of the British Airborne Forces.

The main event is scheduled for Saturday, July 18, at Riverside Park in Dundee, where veterans, associations, families, and enthusiasts can meet the men of the British airborne world and learn more about the history and capabilities of the units that wear the famous maroon beret.

Three Days Dedicated to the Airborne Community

The Airborne Forces Day Scotland is not just a military event, but above all a great gathering of the British airborne community.

The program begins on Friday, July 17, with a welcome meeting at the headquarters of the Tayside Parachute Regimental Association and Veterans Club, at St David's, in the center of Dundee.

The facility houses memorabilia, photographs, and testimonies related to the history of the paratroopers and serves as a point of reference for veterans in the region.

Friday is mainly dedicated to the arrival of participants, informal meetings, and reunions among men who have shared training, operational service, and membership in the Airborne Forces.

The heart of the event will be Saturday, July 18, when from 11:00 to 17:00, Riverside Park will host the event open to the public free of charge.

Parachute Jumps, Historical Vehicles, and Traditions of the Parachute Regiment

Among the announced initiatives is a freefall parachuting demonstration, expected to be one of the most spectacular moments of the day.

The program also includes the presence of the paratroopers' pipe band, the display of the flags of the **4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment**, and the standards of the Parachute Regimental Association.

There will also be historical military vehicles, reconstructions dedicated to World War II, exhibitions of parachuting materials, and demonstrations of the capabilities of airborne units.

The initiative is designed as an open meeting not only for military personnel and veterans but also for families and the population of Dundee.

Alongside the events dedicated to military history, there will be entertainment, activities for children, markets, food stalls, and community initiatives.

Entrance and parking will be free.

The Return After the Success of 2024

Dundee had already successfully hosted the Airborne Forces Day Scotland in 2024.

The response from the population and the veteran community prompted the local branch of the Parachute Regimental Association to bring the event back to the city in 2026, expanding it over an entire weekend.

The event aims to create a connection between the different generations of the Airborne Forces: from veterans of past campaigns to soldiers serving today, including families and those who keep the memory of the British airborne units alive.

The unwritten motto of the initiative is to welcome men from all generations and all units, without limiting participation to only former members of the Parachute Regiment.

The association itself emphasizes that the event is open to all ages and all “cap badges,” meaning the various specialties and units that have been part of the airborne forces.

The Parachute Regimental Association

The Parachute Regimental Association was established at the end of World War II with the aim of maintaining the bonds formed during service in the Parachute Regiment and the Airborne Forces.

The association operates through numerous branches distributed throughout the United Kingdom and performs a function that goes well beyond organizing commemorations.

Among its main tasks are supporting serving military personnel, veterans, and their families, assisting those in difficult situations, and preserving the memory of paratroopers who fell during operations.

Local branches organize meetings, gatherings, visits, pilgrimages to battle sites, social activities, and initiatives to keep the esprit de corps alive.

The Tayside Branch, responsible for the Dundee event, represents one of the reference points for the airborne community in Scotland.

The Significance of the Maroon Beret

The maroon beret is one of the most recognizable symbols of the British airborne forces.

It was adopted during World War II by the paratrooper units created at the behest of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who after the German victories of 1940, called for the establishment

of a force of at least 5,000 paratroopers.

The British airborne units were employed in some of the most challenging operations of the conflict, from North Africa to Sicily, from Normandy to Arnhem, up to the crossing of the Rhine.

In the post-war period, the Parachute Regiment and other components of the Airborne Forces have continued to operate in numerous theaters, including Palestine, Suez, Cyprus, Aden, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The maroon beret continues to represent the selection, training, and readiness to be deployed quickly in the most challenging situations.

Between Memory and Present

The Airborne Forces Day Scotland is not intended to be just a commemoration of the past.

The modern British airborne units continue to represent a fundamental component of the United Kingdom's rapid intervention capabilities.

The Parachute Regiment forms the core of the airborne infantry of the **16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team**, a high-readiness formation intended to be rapidly deployed through parachute jumps, helicopters, and air transport.

Alongside the battalions of the Parachute Regiment operate artillery, engineers, medical, logistics, and other specialized units trained to support air-mobile and airborne operations.

Events like the one in Dundee allow for the remembrance of past operations, but also for presenting to the public the role that the airborne forces continue to play in British defense.

The Importance of Veterans

One of the central aspects of the event will be the meeting among veterans.

The transition from military to civilian life can represent a complex phase, especially for those who have spent many years in units characterized by a strong collective identity.

Regimental associations offer a support network capable of maintaining ties among former military personnel, assisting families, and identifying any situations of economic, social, or personal difficulty.

The gathering in Dundee will allow many former paratroopers to reunite with their comrades and share experiences that can often be fully understood only by those who have lived the same type of service.

The presence of families and citizens also transforms the military remembrance into a moment of collective participation.

Dundee, Scottish Capital of the Airborne Forces

For three days, Dundee will thus become one of the main meeting points of the British airborne community.

The Airborne Forces Day Scotland will unite memory, esprit de corps, support for veterans, and dissemination of military history.

The public day on July 18 will offer the population the opportunity to get closer to the world of paratroopers, observe materials and vehicles, attend demonstrations, and meet men from different generations of the Airborne Forces.

An event that celebrates the history of the maroon beret, but above all the bond that continues to unite British paratroopers even many years after the conclusion of service.

Sources

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