

The Parachute Regiment Charter

“What manner of men are these who wear the maroon red beret? They are firstly all volunteers, and are then toughened by hard physical training. As a result they have that infectious optimism and that offensive eagerness which comes from physical well being. They have jumped from the air and by doing so have conquered fear. Their duty lies in the van of the battle: they are proud of this honour and have never failed in any task. They have the highest standards in all things, whether it be skill in battle or smartness in the execution of all peace time duties. They have shown themselves to be as tenacious and determined in defence as they are courageous in attack. They are, in fact, men apart – every man an Emperor.”

Field Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

The Past

The Parachute Regiment was formed to provide the infantry arm of the Airborne formations raised during the Second World War, in order to deliver a specialised operational capability. Airborne forces were required to operate at reach, with a light logistic footprint, often beyond traditional lines of support. Special qualities were therefore demanded of the airborne soldier, whether launched into battle by parachute or glider. He was required to be physically fit and mentally robust. He had to demonstrate motivation, self-reliance, initiative and intelligence. Through rigorous selection and hard training, the airborne soldier was expected to develop a temper of mind that bred resilience, self-confidence and a fierce determination to succeed, whatever the difficulties. These qualities, constantly sought through training and selection, have continued to be nurtured through subsequent generations, and have proved a winning factor time and again on operations to the present day.

The Future

These special capabilities are demanded more than ever in an evolving operational environment where complexity, ambiguity and confusion abound. The requirement for speedy, preventive deployments is still paramount, where airborne soldiers may have to operate at the limits of endurance and sustainability. They must be light and agile, ready to deploy at short notice, inherently self-reliant and innovative, with the skill at arms, cunning and boldness to bring all their firepower to bear. They have to be a highly disciplined and professionally competent force, deployable by helicopter, aeroplane or parachute.

Attaining this professional standard requires motivated volunteers whose qualities are above the norm. In sustaining the specialised capability that remains the hallmark of the Parachute Regiment, appropriate selection and training is as critical now as it ever was.

The Regimental Charter

The Parachute Regiment provides the capability to deploy an infantry force at short notice, in the vanguard of operations and in the most demanding circumstances. As such, it is trained and ready to form the spearhead for the Army's rapid intervention capability. Its watchwords are professionalism, resilience, discipline, versatility, courage and self-reliance. It is light by design, because this confers speed of reaction, and is expert at air-land deployments, by helicopter, aeroplane or parachute. It is trained to conduct a range of missions, from prevention and pre-emption tasks, to complex, high intensity war fighting. It is also trained to provide direct support to United Kingdom Special Forces, with whom it maintains close links and to whom it contributes a very significant proportion of manpower. In sum, The Parachute Regiment's approach to the training and selection of its soldiers continues to foster those qualities of resilience and versatility recognised by its founding fathers as the rock on which its particular value is built. It remains a force for good and for all seasons in the Army.

