



299 ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the AEA, but as always open to ALL 299 men past & present.

The aims and ideals of this association are decreed as being:

Promoting and maintaining contact with past and present members of 299 Squadron RE.
Promoting and encouraging such events as may bring pleasure to all members of this association.
Relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of this association.
Promoting and maintaining contact with the members of 131 Independent Squadron RE; and all other Airborne/Commando associations.

W. Dick, (Seadog), 2/8/2002

Date: Friday 2nd September 2022, 20:00 hrs at the Ship Inn, Dunswell

Members Present: A Alcock, D Barker, M Beardshaw, B Bilton, K Blacker, T Cunningham, D French, C Gadd, P Hairsine, C Ham, D Hines, A Irwin, M Lawrence, M Maddison, P McGlynn, R Meachen, D Meekin, P Meekin, K Morley, B Oldfield, F Pougher, P Robson, G Ratten, K Saddington, S Saxby, C Shillito, P Sims, N Sissons, L Smith, B Steele, M Tindle, A Weldon, D Woollas, N Yates.

Apologies: R Able, J Brooks, G Coe, C Duggan, T Foster, R Gill, F Grey, M Holdsworth, R Holding, S Hoyle, D Ideson, S Oliver, P Robinson, K Saddington, R Swatman, J Thompson, P Wilkinson

Guests: Nil

Prior to the meeting

Background, back in October the AEA informed its members at the AGM, that it did not have any Public Indemnity to cover members at large events. This was discussed at length and potential costs, and the AEA now has this in place.

The 299 Association Committee, had a meeting to discuss a Zoom call our Chairman **Chris Shillito**, had on the 21/08/2002 regarding Public Indemnity. It was agreed that we shall wait to see, if 299 Association would be included in the AEA Public Indemnity insurance, before 299 Association, would make any further commitments to the AEA.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris** welcomed all present to our September meeting and was very pleased to see a great turnout again, in the middle of the holiday season.

Chris thanked all the committee members especially **Glenn** for the sterling work they do at this busy time preparing for Arnhem. Our treasurer **Glenn Ratten** returned the compliment and thanked **Chris** for being a great chairman, driving our association forward.

Minutes from the last meeting were proposed as a true record.

Proposed by – B Pougher
Seconded by – R Meachen

Treasure's Report:

Glen, brought the meeting up to date with the association finances. He went on to say all monies for Arnhem have now been payed and the association was still healthy.

Anyone who has ordered a 299 Rugby shirt or a shield are now in, and are £36 and £28 respectively.

Anyone wanting to pay any monies online please speak to **Glen** as the account details have changed.

We have had a last minute cancelation, so there is one place available for Arnhem. Please contact Chris to make use of this place.

Correspondence

Fred Grey had emailed to saying he was struggling to get to our meetings due to the long round trip and driving at the young age of 87, but wanted to send his best wishes to the lads.

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The 32nd AGM & Reunion will be hosted by the Birmingham Branch AEA.
The Hotel lies at the centre of the motorway network and is easily accessible.
The Hotel is situated next to Birmingham Airport on the A45 and in close proximity to Birmingham International Railway Station. The Holiday Inn hotel has a Gym, Swimming Pool, Sauna/Steam Room and Jacuzzi.
If any member or Branch would like any further information, you can contact:

AEA Birmingham.

Tom Smith. smithtom131@gmail.com Mobile 07736666337.
Roger Howles. r.howles301@gmail.com Mobile 07831262512
Steve Brown. stevebrown4@hotmail.com Mobile 07702597546

Steve Brown
On behalf of the Birmingham Branch AEA

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Chairman's Comments:

Arnhem trip

Make sure your passport is in date and you have proof of your Covid vaccinations either on a smart phone or a hard copy.

The **E111** is no longer available and had been replaced with the **UK EHIC**. This has also been replaced by **UK GHIC** because of Brexit. If you have a EHIC card this remains valid until expiry. You can then apply for a UK GHIC or if you don't have a health card. You can do this on the NHS website.

The link is below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

Beware of unofficial websites, they may charge you a fee to apply.

INSURANCE:

We are **not** personally insured on the Arnhem trip as an organised group, so it is advisable to take out some personal travel insurance, but this is your choice.

Jonno, the landlord at the Ship Inn, will as usual be allowing members to park cars at his establishment, please leave your keys at the bar, in case vehicles need to be moved.

Also, **Jonno** will be doing meals for anyone wanting to eat prior to forward travels to Arnhem.

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Proposed itinerary for Arnhem trip 15th to 19th September 2022 for 33 passengers. All timings are local. As ever remain flexible and have a good sense of humour.

Recommended Dress code for Arnhem.

Thursday 15th September travel on ferry your choice

Friday 16th September your choice but dress for, meal and photo rugby shirts.

Saturday 17th September Association rugby Shirts take your beret for the service at Driel.

Sunday 18th September. Blazer, Beret, Association tie, medals.

Thursday 15th September 2022

Pick up at the Ship Inn, Dunswell. **16:00hrs**

Or RV **17:00hrs** Riverside terminal on King George dock Hull HU9 5PS. On to the Ferry

Catch up with fellow members and other airborne troops on the ferry, and a few sociable drinks on the ferry.

Friday 16th September 2022 08:00hrs

We will board the coach for a trip to the hotel about one hour.

Hotel Van Der Valk Hotel Arnhem,
Amsterdamseweg 505,6816 VK Arnhem Holland.

Stopping for some lunch on route.

Saturday 17th September 2022 09:15hrs

Traveller to Ginkel Heath, Ede. Drop Zone. About 6km away.

1400hrs move to Royal Engineers monument at Driel. Dress Association rugby shirts

1600 hrs commemorative service at Driel a couple of km away. Return to Hotel Park up.

Sunday 18th September 2022

08:00hrs breakfast

08:30hrs load coach will not be coming back (clear rooms)

09:00hrs travell to Oosterbeek cemetery

11:00hrs Service of remembrance in cemetery.

13:00hrs head back to ferry at Rotterdam stopping for lunch at a village called Gorinchem.

19:00hrs Embark on the ferry for return journey. A few sociable drinks on the ferry.

Monday 19th September 2022 0800hrs

Disembark ferry and drop everyone back at The Ship inn Dunswell, disperse.

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Cromwell Lock Service 25th September 2022

General. This service is to remember the 10 soldiers from 300 Tp, 131 Independent Parachute Squadron RE(V) who perished at Cromwell Lock whilst on Ex Trent Chase on the 28th September 1975.

Ray Buchanan	age 20
Ian Mercer	age 17
Norman Bennet	age 20
Alexander O'Brien	age 18
James Black	age 18
Terry Smith	age 20
Stuart Evendon	age 22
Ronald Temprell	age 26
Peter Evendon	age 19
Joseph Walker	age 21

RIP Sappers.

Exhortation: Read by, **A Irwin**

299 Association still have a lot of guys who was there on that fateful night, so If you can make it to the service on the 25th September please come to pay your respects to our 131 brothers and show that 299 will never forget them. Whether you were there or not it doesn't matter. It's about remembrance and a good attendance shows that their memory lives on. A 299 Association wreath will be laid.

Timings:

10:30hrs Assemble in area of memorial

11:00hrs Service commences with welcome and introduction from AEA President.

Order of service to be as follows:

Service conducted by Rt Revd John Finney

The Exhortation (AEA President) followed by the Kohima Epitaph (AEA Chairman)

Last Post followed by Reveille

Laying of wreaths

Dispersal

Refreshments will be available at the Muskham Ferry Inn, (Provisional)

Fery Lane,
North Muskham,
Newark,
NG23 6HB

Transport.

Own transport is required to get to Cromwell. Try to car share and chip in for juice. If you have room in your car let the committee know so we can get as many 299 guys, there as possible.

Remember we are on show and need to be smart and a good turnout is required to remember our 131 brothers. Please make sure you keep the 25th September free in your diary and arrive at Cromwell by 10:30hrs

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Chris, went on to thank **Dave** and **Pauleen Meekin**, for paying for a buffet at our meeting for the members. He also thanked Jonno for hosting us, due to events at our usual venue.

Items from members:

B Bilton, mentioned that an old friend of 299 from 218 Sqn RLC was very poorly and mentioned he was in hospital and would update the members at the next meeting.

Just a reminder **Nigel Sisson's** invited everyone to his reception on the evening of the 8th October 2022 at Canham Turner, Hull University from 18:30. Please RSVP Nigel on 07976979826

Simbo's Bus Stop:

Won by: **Dave Hines**

Web site address: www.299association.co.uk

Next Meeting: will be at the Minerva on Friday 7th October 2022 kick off 20:00 hrs.

WITH NOTHING MORE TO DISCUSS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING THANKING ALL FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE

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Dates for your diary:

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2022

15TH – 19TH September 2022, all details to follow for the people going on this trip.

Cromwell Lock 2022

25th September 2022, 11:00 RV, service at 11:30 Members from the Airborne Engineers Association will attend and associated Airborne Associations

32nd AGM Birmingham 2022

32nd AGM will be held in Birmingham Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport 21st – 23rd October 2022 anyone wanting to attend can book directly with the Birmingham Branch

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13th NOV. 2022, muster 9:30hrs down Pease Street, Anlaby Road, Hull. Dress for parade & service at the Cenotaph.

1 Troop 299 Squadron are parading in Hull this year and will be sharing the buffet at the Minerva with the association.

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690, Mob: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman: Craig Gadd, craig.gadd@hotmail.com Mob: 07771880733

Secretary: Gaz Coe, coeblimey240@gmail.com Tel: 01757 268188.

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Mob: 07795248328.

Web Master: Dave Hines, davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 860981, Mob: 07821698522.

Archivist: Tony Irwin, bigtirwin@hotmail.com Tel; 01482 793847, Mb: 07928956592.

WELFARE:

The veterans Hub & Forum, coordinator Callum Day for all your problems

Address: Goodwin Community Hub, Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 2LL, (opposite the `Tigers Lair`).

Tel: 01482 485958, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org