



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 4th November 2022, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva, Hull

Members Present: T Alcock, M Beardshaw, G Coe, N Cooper, T Cunningham, C Duggan, C Gadd, M Hall, D Harvey, W Holbrook, R Holding, A Irwin, T James, P Jefferson, D Meekin, F Pougher, G Ratten, K Russel, S Saxby, C Shillito, P Sims, N Sissons, J Thompson, M Tindle, C Walker, A Weldon, D Woollas, N Yates.

Apologies: D Barker, K Blacker, D French, J Brooks, T Foster, D French, R Gill, D Hines, D Harvey, M Maddison, A McGlynn, D Meeking, P Robson, P Robinson, L Smith, B Steele, T Walker

Guests: P Meekin and M Sullivan

Welcome

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present to our November meeting and was very pleased to see yet another great turnout.

Chris went on to inform the membership, that **Chris Wilcock** had passed on the very sad news, that two very respected men of 131 Indep Cdo, Sqn RE had passed away. **Neil Holley** from SHQ passed away 3 weeks ago. Also, **Nick Greenham** from 300Tp had sadly lost his battle with his brain tumour and passed away on his 76th birthday after an amazing fight. Nick's funeral will be held at Exeter Crematorium on the 17th November 2022, at 14:30hrs. John Thompson offered to take his car down and had a couple of spaces.

The chairman made a toast to absent friends.

Exhortation

Was given by **A Irwin**, in memory of the late, Sqn members **Neil Holley** and **Nick Greenham**.

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

Proposed by – **J Thompson**

Seconded by – **P Sims**

Treasure's Report:

Glen Ratten brought the meeting up to date with the association finances, and said we were still in a healthy position. The web page had also been paid for another year. We had also paid £100 towards the upkeep of Cromwell Lock

Anyone who has ordered a 299 Rugby shirt, or a shield are now in, and are £36 and £28 respectively. There is still a few spare if anyone wants one. Please contact **Chris**.

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

Correspondence.

Message sent from OC 131 Commando Sqn RE

Neil Holley died on 10 October and as far as I know his funeral has already taken place (we only found out about his death last week). Neil joined 131 in 1986, having previously been in the Royal Marines (40, 41, 42, 45 and time as a ship's marine on HMS Intrepid plus tours of NI and Cyprus) and then CVHQ RE. He served with us all over the world, including Norway, Oman, Kuwait, Iraq, Holland, Germany, Denmark and the USA, finally retiring in around 2004. Travelling to Kingsbury from Ipswich every Tue night and driving for us on countless weekends and exercises, he was the most selfless person I think anyone ever met.

Nick Greenham died on Wednesday 2nd November. He was a long serving and loyal supporter of 131 Cdo Sqn and was one of the 'originals' when 300 Tp moved to Plymouth in the early 80's. Nick was a big brother, uncle or dad to all of us younger lads and the nicest bloke you could ever meet. Starting with the Wessex Regiment, where he carried out a Cyprus UN tour with the D and Ds, **Nick's** time after transferring to 131 took him literally all over the world, including Kenya, Norway, Brunei, South Africa, Canada, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Smudge Smith (grimatdasschmidthaus@hotmail.co.uk) has been liaising with **Nick's** family and is assisting them with the organisation of the funeral. Please inform **Smudge** if you wish to attend the funeral.

Details of **Nick's** funeral are:

Date: Thursday 17th November at 1430hrs

Exeter and Devon Crematorium
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 6EU

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Craig Gadd informed the membership about Cromwell Lock and that the National Committee of the AEA, have decided that the Cromwell Lock should have an organising committee for the upkeep and the running of the event. **Eamon Smith, Gilbert Nicol** and **Craig Gadd**, have been nominated for organising this. It is yet to be clarified from the National executive committee exactly what they want us to do, and what we would like to do in the future. **Craig** went on to say that he had already discussed the future of the remembrance parade with Eamon, and that next year would be a good rehearsal for 2024 anniversary, being the 50th Anniversary of the tragedy in 2024, at Cromwell Lock. **Craig** said he would update the membership when he knew more. The membership discussed the possibility of parading every 5yrs after the 50th as it used to do before the national executive committee got involved. This seemed to work very well, being the weekend straight after the Arnhem weekend commemorations.

Chairman's Comments

A few men from 299 attended **Nigel** and **Kadi Sissons** Wedding and reception, it was a brilliant day and night. The Chairman went on to wish **Nigel** and **Kadi** all the very best for the future.

8 Men of 299 Association attended the Airborne Engineers Association Gala Dinner, in Birmingham organised by the Birmingham branch at the Holiday Inn. The guys met up with a lot of old comrades and had a fantastic weekend. Full credit to the organising committee from Birmingham branch on a very successful weekend.

One of 299s oldest members who comes to our meetings from time-to-time **Fred Gray**, who is the author of Airborne Engineers, has kindly donated £50 towards the Remembrance Day buffet. Thanks **Fred**.

Ex Royal Marine **Brian Penn's** funeral went well a few 299 men turned up, to give an old veteran a decent send off. Our standard was there and carried by our very reliable bearer **Tony Irwin**.

It was proposed by the members that next year 299 Association Committee would not be organizing a trip to Arnhem and look forward to the 80th Anniversary 2024 but plan a trip to Normandy next year instead. This was voted in and a unanimous decision in favor of going to Normandy. **John Thompson** and **Craig Gadd**, said they would look at organizing and looking at the details and planning of Normandy.

Good news **Tommy James** been made up to Troop Ssgt. We all wish him well in his career.

299 Para Squadron have invited the association to their Christmas bash at Wakefield, £10 a ticket
If interested get in touch with **Heppy**.



It was **Roger Holdings** 50th Birthday, and the Chairman presented a birthday card signed by everyone at the meeting We sang happy birthday and told him he only looked 40. Many happy returns mate.

Remembrance Parade will take place on Friday 11th November 2022. 299 Association's Standard will be at the cenotaph for 11:00, as always if you wish to attend just turn up at the cenotaph to remember the fallen and pay your respects, a few of the members usually attend.

Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2022, muster 9:30hrs down Pease Street, Anlaby Road, Hull.

Dress: for parade & service at the Cenotaph. Try to attend to pay our respects at the Cenotaph. A buffet will be laid on at the Minerva after the parade and of course plenty of refreshments of alcoholic kind. There will be a great raffle due to your generosity, so come and win yourself a prize.

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

Thanks for all the raffle prizes generously donated by you guys, it pays for the Remembrance Day buffet and other expenses. Well done to all who donated, thank you.

AOB

Tony Irwin said there is a parade at the URBAN office who look after the under privileged children of Bransholme at,
9 Appin Close
Bransholme
Hull
HU7 5BB

This will take place, Wednesday the 9th November at 10.30hrs our standard will be there and a wreath will be laid to remember the fallen.

Gary Coe our secretary, announced that he was stepping down after serving for over ten years, the longest serving Secretary in the association's history, has decided to retire from the job due to life's commitments, a big loss to the association. We wish him well and we know he will still attend the meetings when possible and support us as always.
Our vice chairman has been doing the job for a while on a temporary basis, so we are looking for a new permanent Secretary to join the committee.
Come and join the committee to keep our association going.

If anyone has any news that is relevant to the association, please let me know and I will put in the minutes for the wider membership.

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Simbo's Bus Stop:

Won by: **Wally Holdbrook**

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

Next Meeting: will be at the Minerva on Friday 2nd December 2022 kick off 20:00 hrs

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

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:

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

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