



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 3rd February 2023, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva, Hull

Members Present: Antony Alcock, Mike Beardshaw, Brian Bilton, Kev Blacker, Neil Cooper, Terry Cunningham, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Carl Ham, Dave Havey, Wally Holbrook, Antony Irwin, Martin Lawrance, Bob Meachen, Keith Moreley, Bud Oldfield, Frank Pougher, Pete Robson, Kenny Russel, Stuart Saxby, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nige Sissons, Brad Steele, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Terry Walker, Antony Weldon, Dave Wollas,

Apologies: Ricky Able, Jack Brooks, Chris Duggan, Dave Hines, Roger Holding, Paul Jefferson, Mike Maddison, Glenn Ratten, Lee Smith, Paul Robinson.

Guests: Nil

Welcome

The Vice Chairman **Craig Gadd** stood in for **Chris Shillito** who had just got in from work. (yes he's back working) **Craig** had reminded everyone that we had lost **Cmdr Alexander Tremain (Buck) Rogers** at the beginning of the year, a former member of 131 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers. All members stood while the Exhortation was read by **Tony Irwin**.

Craig had said that further details about **Buck**, would be explained later. **Craig** went on to wish everyone a happy new year on behalf of the committee and hoped everyone enjoyed their Christmas, as it was our first meeting since the seasonal festivities. **Craig** went to explain a little who **Cmdr Alexander Tremain (Buck) Rogers** was and that John Thompson would explain a little further in detail on **Buck** later on in the meeting. **Craig** also said how it was good to see the Donny Lads back in full form, after Bobs surgery.

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

Proposed by – **Mick Sunderland**

Seconded by – **John Thompson**

Treasure's Report:

Craig, brought the meeting up to date with the association finances, as **Glenn** couldn't make the meeting due to a bout of flu. Get well soon **Glenn**. **Craig** went on to say, we were in a healthy position.

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

Correspondence.

Tommy Smith from Birmingham had let the wider AEA know that they had received thank you letters from Heads Up and Blesma for donating £763 from the association dinner, splitting it between the respective charities.

Hello Tom,

Head Up Charity, have received your cheque of £380 from the Airborne Association.

Thank you all very much. 100% of your money donated will go towards the development of our retreat. Which every member of your association can use for free once we are up and running towards the end of next year.

To find out a little more please visit our website <https://www.head-up.org.uk/> and watch our short promo video

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DsbYt1yNHBA>

Thank you again

From all at Head Up

Paul Minter.

Dear Tom

On behalf of everyone at Blesma, The Limbless Veterans, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to you on behalf of Airborne Engineers Association, for the kind donation of £383.00, which you sent to us in November 2022. It has been safely and gratefully received.

As you may know, Blesma, The Limbless Veterans aims to ensure that all serving or ex-service men and women who have lost sight, limbs or the use of limbs can lead independent and fulfilling lives.

In 2022 we celebrated our 90th anniversary and we take this opportunity to thank supporters such as yourself, for donating to our charity and enabling us to help injured veterans for the past 90 years and the years to come.

Just as we are still caring for our surviving World War II veterans, Blesma has adapted to the times, including looking after, and looking out for, a new generation of amputees from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, who will need our specialised support as they face the long journey ahead.

Thank you once again for thinking of us and for your support of our Association

With warmest wishes

Kirsty Allard

Community & Events Fundraising Officer

Direct Dial: 020 8548 7089

Email: communityeventsofficer@blesma.org

Chairman's Comments

Craig informed the meeting of **Cmdr Alexander Tremain (Buck) Rogers** had sadly passed on the 7th January after suffering from a brain tumour cancer of which was a rare form. **Craig** handed over to **John Thompson** to explain more in detail.

John explained, **Buck** joined the Sqn in 1992 – 1998. **Buck** had trained as a signaller and had deployed on Op Tosca and on Ex Ocean Wave, before leaving as a L/Cpl and joining the regulars finding his love of helicopters after flying over the canopies of Brunei on Ex Ocean Wave. **Buck** joined the Army Air Corps and commissioned as an officer in 1998 and went on to gain his pilot wings in 2000. In 2003 **Buck** completed and passed SAS selection during this time and went on to officer's week before being stood down on day 4. Buck was offered a slot at SBS but refused which was ironic as he joined the Navy some 4yrs later. **Buck** went on to fly attack helicopters and joined the Navy 2007 flying Lynx and Mil Mi-17 Hips and the then Apache attack helicopters in 2011. He was also in Command of the Commando Helicopter Task force. **Buck** had an incredible career spanning some 30yrs with operational service in Cyprus, NI, Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

14 former and serving members of 131 Cdo Sqn RE attended his funeral at RNAS Yeovilton on the 29th Jan, with full military honours and a flyby with 4 AH-64 Apache Helicopters.

Buck is survived by his wife **Debs** and their three sons **Ben, Sam and Max**. 299 Association offers our deepest and heartfelt condolences to you all.

RIP Buck 6th Feb – 7th Jan 2023



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The association had looked at planning a trip to Normandy but, **John Thompson** had explained it looks like it will be too expensive as a large group costing well in excess of £635.00 each. To that end, we have decided to focus our efforts, to next year's celebrations in 2024 for Arnhem, which will be the 80th Anniversary of Op Market Garden

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Due to demand the chairman has ordered another batch of association ties. You can now purchase these for £19.00. If you require one, please let **Chris** know.

Any Other Business

Dave Wollas stood up and thanked the association for his fond time at 299 Troop before senile dementor kicked in and he couldn't remember any of it. As an attached rank from the REME he went on to pass the Cdo course with a little help from **Simbo** and **Sheggsy**. He then presented the association with the finest bottle of POL in the form of Pendderyn single malt Welsh whisky in a fully engraved bottle. The committee accepted this on behalf of the association and will save this for an appropriate time to open it. Thank you, **Dave**.

Carl Ham informed the meeting he is still looking at a cycling shirt, but final design is still to be thrashed out. If you would like one please get in touch with **Carl**, on the Covid cycling WhatsApp group or ring **Carl** on 07778214483.

If anyone has any news that is relevant to the Association, please let **Gaddy** know and he will put in the minutes for the wider membership.

With nothing more to discuss the Vice Chairman closed the meeting.

Simbo's Bus Stop:

Won by: **Craig Gadd (first time ever)**

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

Next Meeting: will be at the Minerva on Friday 3rd March 2023 kick off 20:00 hrs

CONTACTS:

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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