



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 Para Squadron RE.

Promoting and maintaining contact with the members of 131 Independent Commando Squadron RE; and all other Airborne/Commando associations.

Relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of this association.

Promoting and encouraging such events that may bring pleasure to all members of this association.

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

DATE: 3rd November 2023 at the Minerva, Hull.

Members present:

Tony Alcock, Mickael Beardshaw, Terry Cunningham, Craig Gadd, Dave Harvey, Dave Hines, Antony Irwin, Tom James, Paul Jefferson, Bob Meachen, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Frank Pougher, Glenn Ratten, Peter Robson, Christopher Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Arthur Stimpson, Reece Swatman, Martin Tindle, Antony Weldon, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Kev Blacker, Gaz Coe, Chris Duggan, Gary Coe, Derek French, Fred Gray, Willy Harrison, Roger Holding, Will Mahon, Dave Meeking, Ken Newton, Lee Smith, John Thompson

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all members present and thanked them for attending the monthly meeting.

Guests:

Chris welcomed guests **Mike (Ozzy) Holdsworth** from Birmingham branch and **Ben Frazer**, **Ben** is **Mike Beardshaw's** son in law and a member of 264 (SAS) Signals Squadron.

Minutes proposed: Last month's minutes as a true record.

Proposed **Bud Oldfield**

Seconded **Tony Irwin**

Treasurer report: **Glenn** informed the meeting that the funds were healthy, and the Arnhem trip is now closed. **Glenn** asked that all members to remember to have paid £100.00 by or at the December meeting and the balance to be paid by June next year. The total cost is to be around £420.00 this will be confirmed once the hotel and ferry is booked.

Glenn also asked the members if the Association could purchase a printer as previously, we used to use someone to print our minutes, but as this option isn't convenient anymore, **Glenn** would then be able to print the minutes and post them out directly to our members, that don't have access to a computer to receive them electronically. **Nigel Sisson** then offered to purchase the printer for the association. This was gratefully accepted. Thank you, **Nige**.

Correspondence: Our acting Secretary and Vice Chairman **Craig Gadd** had sent an email to **Tony Costello** asking how he was keeping, as we had not seen **Tony** for some time. **Craig** received a nice reply from **Tony** that he was keeping well and receives the monthly minutes so keeps up to date with the Association's news. However, **Tony** did mention he was just getting over his sister's passing, she was 6yrs younger than **Tony**, as he's only a 95yrs young. **Tony** lives next door to his son and daughter in law so they are looking after him. **Tony** said he doesn't get out much but would be attending the Beverley Armistice day parade as he would be laying a wreath on behalf of the Palestine Veterans, as **Tony** served during this conflict.

Tony sends his very best wishes to all members of 299.

Craig reminded members that we all have mates who we knew or served with who we don't see that often or attend the meetings, so **Craig** asked the members to reach out and look after our fellow comrades and just check in with one another from time to time.

Craig has a meeting at the Hilton Hotel on Tuesday, so hopefully will have some info regarding next year's AGM and dinner which will be held in Hull.

Carl Hendrickson has kindly donated £150.00 toward the buffet on Remembrance Sunday. **Carl** served for many years in 299 Troop, 131 Indep Cdo Sqn RE with many 299 Association members and is an Iraq war veteran. **Carl** is now working overseas but regularly keeps a keen eye on association news. Thank you, **Carl**.

Chairman's Comments:

Tony Irwin received the President's Commendation award from the Airborne Engineers Association. for his dedicated service to 299 Association. This was his citation.

I Chris Shillito would like to nominate Anthony Irwin for this award. Tony has been a loyal servant and our standard bearer for many years after taking over from Colin Woodward who was our first standard bearer when our association was formed. He is also our archivist looking after all of 299's history and an all round active member of the association and a committee member. He also carries our standard in an organisation called. C.E.S.A. Combined Ex Services Association. They carry their standards at any veterans funeral many who have no relatives maybe doing two or three a week on some occasions. Tony has always acted above and beyond the call of duty.

Chris Shillito

Chairman

299 Association

Tony has attended 40 events this year already representing 299 with our standard immaculately turned out in all weathers and at his own expense with the rest of November and December yet to go. We also know that **Tony** tends to former 299 men's graves which is outstanding behaviour.

Tony was definite candidate for the Presidents Commendation.



Remembrance Sunday. The Parade will take place on Sunday the 12th November forming up down Pease Street at 10 15 hrs Dress: Blazer, Beret, Association tie, medals. Let's have a good turnout on the parade from the 299 Association, After the parade back to our spiritual home the Minerva where a buffet will be laid on. We will also be joined by our serving members of 299 Parachute Squadron RE. We will hold our usual awesome raffle. If you have not already donated a raffle prize, you can still put one behind the bar of the Minerva anytime the girls will pop it in the cellar until the 12th November. T I A.

Cromwell lock. At the AEA AGM a meeting between the Birmingham branch committee and the 299 Association committee members was held at the Abbey Hotel in Malvern on the 14th October 2023 the roster for the maintenance of the Cromwell lock monument and garden for 2024. (Committee members present from 299: **Chris Shillito, Craig Gadd, Tony Irwin**) It was agreed that the maintenance would take place every two months over the spring/Summer and Autumn period, it was agreed that 299 would do the months of March and July, Birmingham Branch would do May and September. As it is the 50th Anniversary in September 2025 **Eamon Smyth** suggested in the spring of 2025 we would remove and put to one side the stones in the garden remove the old membrane and move or replace the rose trees, replace the membrane, replant and replace the stones. Birmingham branch will do one half of the garden 299 the other half. Hopefully by the September's service the roses will be in bloom, I am no gardener, but I am sure there is enough expertise among us to get it done. Thanks to the Birmingham lads for holding up their end of the maintenance for 2023 and those who volunteered from 299 well done all.

Next year 2024 **Bob Meacham** and **Martin Lawrence** will tend to the garden in March and **Dave Wollas** and **Martin Tindle** in July. With the Brummies doing May and September.

A big thank you to **Dave Hines** who with his special skills made 15 x 2024 calendars with 299 photos inside which sold for £2 each which all helps to pay for the Remembrance Day buffet thanks **Dave**.

Chris received a text message from Marten Hall

I'm good Chris. I've had a few setbacks over the last couple of weeks but moving forward now. I'm over 50 days since the transplant and I'm in fairly decent shape. I hope to pop down at the December meeting, but a lot can happen in between now and then. I'll keep you posted if anything serious changes. All my best to the Association. Marten.

Mick Beardshaw informed the chairman that the 299 stalwart **Neil Cooper** has had a fall and had broken his hip, we wish **Neil** a speedy recovery.

Lee Smith informed the chairman that former paratrooper medic and Gulf war veteran **Mike Burrows** passed away last night. **Mike** was with 299 for a while before joining the medics some of us will remember him.
RIP Mike.

Dave Meeking couldn't attend the meeting but kindly donated a few silver hip flasks for the raffle, with the following prints on them.

Glenmorangie

Jack Daniels

Glenfiddich plus a nice bottle of Irish Whiskey, thank you **Dave**.

Any other business. **Tom James** updated the members on Sqn news.

The Sqn are doing well as a whole. We have had some good opportunities to work with our regular counterparts, 23 Para Engr Regt. This year's summer camp saw our Sqn members join 9 Para Sqn for a bridging concentration in Weymouth. That ended with a night build of the 12 bay double story MGB. Our lads are working well with the regiment and blending in seamlessly.

Last weekend our Sqn were in Ripon conducting counter mobility training.

This weekend sees our PCoy trainees in Catterick in the middle of their training cycle before PCoy.

Parachuting opportunities are still coming in and members of the Sqn will be jumping with the Americans and Germans before the year is out. The C-130 Hercules is now out and the Atlas A400M is still not online for simsticks. Basic Parachute Courses are still going ahead utilising the Skyvan to get people jumping qualified but simsticks will come later.

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We still have rugby shirts, Association plaques and association ties for sale see the committee.

Please use the 299 Facebook and web page for any news, or stuff you have done or old memories or photos you have tucked away in your attic, this is your Association so please use it.

Is everyone getting my texts, if not please let me know.

Simbo's Bus stop

Winner: **Tony Irwin**

Next meeting October 1st December 2023

Dates for your diary

Remembrance Parade 2023 Remembrance Day, 11th November 2023 which is a Saturday so there will be no service held at the Cenotaph as it's the day before.

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023, form up at Pease St 10:30hrs.

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2024 Dates : Thursday the 19th Monday 23rd September. Hotel booked, coach booked, Ferry provisionally booked. Price £420. Save up with Glenn.

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

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

Veterans Welfare Service <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/veterans-welfare-service>

SSAFA <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/get-help/welfare-and-benefits/support-for-homeless-veterans>

Royal British Legion <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk>