



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: 6th October 2023 at the Minerva, Hull.

Members present:

Mickael Beardshaw, Kev Blacker, Neil Cooper, Chris Duggan, Len Douglas, Craig Gadd, Carl Ham, Dave Harvey, Antony Irwin, Tom James, Paul Jefferson, Martin Lawrence, Bob Meachen, Bud Oldfield, Steven Oliver, Frank Pougher, Glenn Ratten, Peter Robson, Kenneth Russel, Christopher Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Arthur Stimpson, Martin Tindle, Antony Weldon, Christopher Wilcock, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Tony Alcock, Gaz Coe, Terry Cunningham, Tony Foster, Derek French, Marten Hall, John Harrison, Dave Hines, Percy McGlynn, Lee Smith, Terry Walker, Pete Wilkinson.

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

Chris asked for everyone to be standing to raise a glass to absent friends, as it would have been Michael Gadd's 76th birthday. Mike was a very good friend to the association and attended many Arnhem trips with the association.

Chris welcomed guest **Len Douglas**, Len joined in 1958 and was looking very well for 95yrs young. We hope to see you at many future meetings.

Guests: Len Douglas

Minutes proposed: as a true record.

Proposed **Paul Jefferson**
Seconded **Dave Harvey**

Treasurer report: **Glenn** informed the meeting that the funds were healthy, and the Arnhem trip is now closed. **Glenn** asked that all members must have paid £100.00 by December 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 went on to thank **Paul Sims** for doing the Bus stop every month over the years, even though he is struggling with his health now. The bus stop helps to top up our coffers.

Correspondence:

The Association has been informed from the National AEA, that Airborne Engineer **Sam Hesketh** has passed away, Our condolences to his family. RIP **Sam**.

Chairman's Comments:

Cromwell lock, we had a good parade, but it would have been nice to have a few more members there.

Chris went on to thank **Eamon Smyth** for maintaining the memorial on his own in September well done **Eamon**.

A big thank you to **Paul** and **Sue Hairsine** for going to the lock a day early and giving the memorial a final spruce up, cleaning the railings, pruning the roses and finding a nice little pub/brewery in Cromwell village well done.

Also, a big thank you to **Kenny Wratten** who travelled down from Scotland to pay his respects to his 300 troop friends. Great to see **Dave Watson** and **Walter Holbrook** on parade, on their motorcycles and camping the night before the service. **Dave Watson** was there, the night of the tragic accident. We're still trying to get him to come to one of the meetings and will continue to do so.

Steve Brown has been in touch and asked for a meeting between 301 and 299 to sort out next year's maintenance rota and the lead up to the 50th anniversary in September 2025. I will reply to **Steve** after this meeting.

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Arnhem, the costings that **Glenn** and **Chris** have done, came to a total of £420.00 with our usual bus company against Ledgers at £609.00 can we have a vote which option you'd prefer.

The option for the cheaper quote was unanimous.

A big thanks to **Tomo** for taking the trouble to get another quote to compare with.

Chris asked the members to bring a raffle prize to the November meeting ready for the raffle on Remembrance Day. We always have a great raffle thanks to your generosity, this pays for the buffet which is brilliant. If you can't make the meeting but would like to donate a prize just hand it to the staff behind the bar at the Minerva and they will put it in the cellar for safe keeping.

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Chris received a message from **Marten Hall**

"Hi Chris. I'm okay a bit rough, but that's to be expected. Bone marrow transplant went well and I'm back home now recovering. Still a long journey ahead. Best wishes to the lads".

Marten.

We wish him all the best and a speedy recovery.

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Chris asked **Bud Oldfield** to update the members on **Nev Smales** health.

Bud went on to say that **Nev** had refused treatment and was fed up with being in the hospital and wanted to go home. This was agreed and is now receiving treatment for end of life care at home. 299 Association wish him well.

Any other business.

Dave Harvey, had brought some books for the raffle.

Craig Gadd, informed the members that **Johnny Monks** had contacted him asking for details on **Cmdr Alex (Buck) Rogers** to confirm name, rank and unit so this can be entered in to the "Roll Call" at the Commando Memorial as he was serving under commando forces at the time of his passing.

Buck served with 131 Indep Cdo Sqn RE before going on to regular service flying helicopter for the Army and Navy. Members that served with Buck from our association and the Sqn attended his funeral earlier this year.

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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.

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Simbo's Bus stop

Winner: **Pete Robson**

Next meeting October 3rd November 2023

Dates for your diary

33rd AGM 2023 Welsh Branch

The AGM and Gala Dinner this will be held this at the Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern 13th – 15th October 2023. Details on the AEA Web page

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

All details and costings to follow for those going on the trip.

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>