



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: Friday 7th June 2024 at the Minerva.

Members present:

Tony Alcock, Dave Barker, Mick Beardshaw, Brian Bilton, Gary Coe, Terry Cunningham, Carl Ham, Chris Duggan, Craig Gadd, Richie Gill, Carl Ham, Walter Holbrook, Syd Hoyle, Tony Irwin, Paul Jefferson, Steve Knowles, Martin Lawrence, Bob Meachen, Percy McGlynn, Rob Meachen, Keith Moreley, Bud Oldfield, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Kenny Russel, Kevin Saddington, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Arthur Stimpson, Martin Tindle, Terry Walker, Tony Weldon, Dave Woollas, Neil Yates.

Apologies:

Kev Blacker, Jack Brooks, Neil Busby, Derek French, Andy Gren, Paul Hairsine, Dave Hines, Roger Holding, Mike Holdsworth, Paul Robinson, Lee Smith, John Thompson.

Chairman:

Chris Shillito informed the members that sadly our dear friend and comrade Frank (Bud) Pougher had passed away on the morning of Wednesday 5th June 2024.

Tony Irwin read out the Exhortation, afterwards the chairman asked members to raise their glasses to toast absent friends.

Bud was an ex regular soldier in the Sherwood Foresters. He then joined 299 from Mona House in 1972 and went on to become a qualified airborne engineer. Bud did a sea jump into Bridlington Bay Approx. 1974 and gained his French wings in 1975.

Bud was in one of the boats taking part in the watermanship competition "Exercise Trent Chase" on that fateful night 28th September 1975 when we lost 10 men on the weir at Cromwell Lock.

Bud did the Freedom of Hamelin parade and drank the German boot of beer successfully in Hamelin to everyone's amusement.

He was a well accomplished HGV driver for many years and always told us he could light a box of matches with the back wheels of his Artic.

Great guy with a larger than life personality, always laughing and joking. RIP Bud.

Guests:

Nil

Minutes proposed: A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer : Nigel Sisson

Seconder: Bud Pougher. (posthumously)

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten informed the meeting that the Arnhem funds had to be paid in tonight Friday 7th June as many were doing. He also mentioned that there is now a spare place on the trip as someone had dopped out. If anyone wants to take this up, please contact the committee cost is £420.

There are 47 members going to Arnhem this year so should be a great trip.

Glenn informed the meeting, that payments for the AEA / AGM and Gala dinner on the 12th of October 2024 are coming in nicely. If you want to support this year's event, get your dinner tickets through Glenn and if you require accommodation, contact the hotel to book a room.

The funds are now very healthy.

Correspondence: Vice Chairman and Acting Secretary Craig Gadd reminded members, that after paying for dinner tickets for the AGM/Gala dinner, please send in your proformas as well, or at the very least, email your requirements to him. It's all well and good sending funds to 299 Association bank account but if Craig doesn't know you're coming then he can't organise the seating plan and you won't get a seat at the table. Craig also reminded members to please put your desired seating preference and or any dietary requirements.

Crowell Lock:

Craig had received an email from John Lee, forwarded from Steve Brown, stating that John no longer wishes to continue with the organising of Crowell Lock after this year's events, which leaves us in a bit of a predicament. Craig has emailed the chairman of the AEA Steve Wallis after discussing this with the committee and said 299 are not in a position to take anything else on this year as this needs organising now, to be ready for next year. Craig suggested that this should be organised by the executive committee and possibly involving the OC's of 131 Cdo Sqn RE and 299 Para Sqn RE

Cromwell Maintenance

Eamon Smythe, from the Birmingham Branch, had emailed Craig, stating that on their visit to the memorial to do its regular maintenance, it was looking very shabby with weeds growing everywhere. On further inspection, the previous work that had been carried out was sub-standard. Eamon suggested that the chippings and the polyethene be removed and the correct material membrane be installed, and the chippings cleaned and reinstalled, which they have done on one half of the memorial garden.

The 299 gardening team are due to attend on the 17th July to do their half of the work at the memorial.

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Craig went on to say that we had received £500 from the AEA to subsidise the transport costs for our Arnhem trip and we had also received £1000 to offset the costs of the AGM and Gala dinner in October. Many thanks to the AEA Exec committee for that.

We have also received a copy of the minutes from the AEA OGM. Craig will attach these to the minutes along with a copy of the proposal of the merger of the Royal Engineer Association, Airborne Branch and the Airborne Engineers Association "Joint Pathway".

The AEA have been offered 42 places for this year's Remembrance Parade, 4 places for each branch. Anyone wanting to go please let Craig know asap.

Again, Dave Pace, who looks after the journal, is struggling to put content into this as no one sends him any news. To that end if anyone has anything remotely interesting that will showcase 299 or to show we are still very much active in our later years, please send articles into the committee.

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

Thursday 6th June was of course the 80th Anniversary of "Operation Overlord" D-Day and a few members of 299 Association attended the small service at the cenotaph in Hull.

Members present.

Brian Bilton, Jack Brooks, Tony Costello, Craig Gadd, Tony Irwin, Chris Shillito and Charlie Wilkinson. Was good to see Tony Costello still up and about and looking so well.

Any other business:

Tony Irwin, our awesome standard bearer, informed the meeting that he will be attending a funeral on Monday 10th June 2024. It wasn't until he did a little bit of research, he realised the chap was a former member of 299 Troop, Ron Broady. If anyone would like to support this then please turn up at Chanterlands Crematorium for 10:00-10:30.

Dress; beret, blazer and medals.

If any member has more details on Ron's service, please send it into Craig and he will publish for the members to read.

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Gary Coe also mentioned that former 299 member Allan Cross was now in Figham House care home. Gary visited him last week. Anyone wishing to visit him suggest you ring them first, to see if Allan wishes to receive visitors.

Figham Road, Beverley, HU17 0PH

Telephone: 01482 872926

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Richie Gill, let members know that Percy McGlynn had become a granddad for the first time with a beautiful granddaughter named Martha. Congratulations to all.

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Lastly, Tony Alcock had mentioned that whilst out running he had noticed Les Ransom's bench was looking a little tired and could do with a lick of paint. Tony has offered to go and re-paint the bench once he had spoken to the family.

Bus stop winner: Arthur Stimpson.

Next meeting 5th July 2024 20:00hrs

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Dates for your diary

Commando Sapper, Reunion 26th to 28th July 2024.

Arnhem Pilgrimage, Thursday 19th September 2024 - Monday 23rd September 2024. Hotel, Coach, and Ferry are now booked. Price £420. Save up with Glenn.

The Cromwell Lock Memorial, Saturday 28th September 2024.

Gala Dinner 12 October 2024

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

CONTACTS:

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WELFARE:

Hull 4 Heroes Supporting those that Served <https://hull4heroes.org.uk> 01482 534483.

Help for Heroes <https://www.helpforheroes.org.uk>

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

SSAFA <https://www.ssafa.org.uk>

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