



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 3rd of May 2024 at the Minerva.

Members present:

Ricky Abel, Tony Alcock, Mick Beardshaw, Kevin Blacker, Brian Bilton, Terry Cunningham, Tony Foster, Carl Ham, Dave Hines, Walter Holbrook, Syd Hoyle, Dean Ideson, Tony Irwin, Paul Jefferson, Martin Lawrence, Bob Meachen, Percy Mglyn, Keith Moreley, Bud Oldfield, Bud Pougher, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Kevin Saddington, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sissons, Lee Smith, Arthur Stimpson, Andy Thomas, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Chris Wilcock, Pete Wilkinson, Dave Woollas,

Apologies:

Neil Busby, Gary Coe, Chris Duggan, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Paul Hairsine, Roger Holding, Mike Holdsworth, Steve Oliver, Paul Robinson.

Gaz Coe sends his apologies he was hoping to attend as he is in the UK but picked up a water infection. Get well soon mate.

Guests:

Nice to see Former 299 Troop Commander Capt Pete Wilkinson who travelled from London and Former OC 299 Parachute Squadron RE LT Col Chris Wilcock who travelled from Somerset to be at the meeting.

Minutes proposed: a true record of the last meeting.

Proposer : Tony Irwin.

Seconder: Tony Alcock.

Treasurer: Glenn informed the meeting that the funds were healthy and thanked all the guys who help keep our funds healthy stopping the need for collecting subs. (Simbo Bus stops and Dave Hines calendars and running the Remembrance Day raffle among other things) Glenn also informed the meeting that all deposits for Arnhem of a £100 have been paid and the balance of £320 is to be paid by the June 7th Meeting, a few people have already paid in full. There is 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 were coming in nicely. If you want to support this year's event, get your tickets and hotel rooms booked if required.

We Had two donations from members Andy Thomas £30 and Pete Wilkinson £20. Thanks guys.

Correspondence: A message from our Vice Chairman and Acting Secretary Craig Gadd who is currently in Colorado. Hope all is well back in the UK, please accept my apologies for not being at the meeting on Friday 3rd May.

Please can you remind the guys to get their tickets bought for the AEA AGM/Gala dinner 12th October 2024. Tomo has sorted the golf which I think we discussed last meeting.

There is just a couple of points from the Airborne Engineers Association OGM held over zoom on 23rd April 2024.

The AEA has requested we produce an article for the journal from the Arnhem trip, so will need a volunteer to write an article on our Arnhem trip. Any volunteers.

The AEA shop continues to be kept up to good stock levels and any profits are going to the AEA. So, if anyone wants any items, please visit the shop on the AEA web site

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.

The next AEA AGM meeting will be held at this year's Gala dinner 10:00 12th October 2024 all members welcome (even if only coming to the night do)

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

First, a big thank you to Bob Meachen, Bud Oldfield, Martin Lawrence, and Bobs Sister for doing a great job of maintaining the Cromwell lock memorial well done guys (round of applause well deserved)

Our next volunteers are Dave Woollas and Martin Tindle for the month of July which concludes 299s contribution for 2024 well done to all concerned.

Arnhem trip Thursday 19th to Monday the 23rd September. The coach, hotel, and ferry is booked. Everyone has paid their £100 deposit and all money to be paid in full by the next meeting 7th June 2024

Cromwell lock memorial service will be held at the lock on Saturday the 28th September, which is the date when that terrible tragedy happened. The service starts at 11:00 hrs own transport required but if you need a lift just ask.

Dress: Blazer Beret Association tie.

Vince Jones ex QM 131 Independent Commando Squadron RE is in hospital, but in good spirits. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The Commando Sapper Reunion 2024, will take place 26th - 28th July at RMB Chivenor Barnstaple, EX31 4AZ tickets available on Commando REA Facebook page if anyone interested.

Nigel Sisson has agreed to put together an article on his bike ride round Majorca and a photo for the AEA journal. (Thanks Nigel) if anyone has a story of things they have been involved in or they think they may be of interest hand it in to the committee and we will send it in to Dave Pace who needs stories for the journal.

If you are on the Arnhem trip please text me the name that is printed in your passport, even if it's an embarrassing middle name (I am sworn to secrecy on this matter)

Presentations:

The Les Ransom Shield is awarded to Tony Foster this year, for services to the 299 Association. The award was well deserved, Tony is our official photographer and staunch association member he never lets us down even though he is a busy guy looking after his wife Debra and is also the official photographer for Hull Kingston Rovers well done mate well deserved.

299 AGM business:

The Committee stood down and all jobs were offered to the members, with no takers coming forward the committee agreed to stand another year. The chairman had anticipated this and had already asked the committee if they were willing to stand for another year to which they all agreed. The Chairman thanked the committee for their commitment.

A special thank you to Craig Gadd who although in Colorado attended the AEA Zoom meeting and looks after the Association in general, sending the minutes out and lots of other things behind the scenes. Well done Mr Vice Chairman.

Any other business:

Tony Irwin our awesome standard bearer informed the meeting that he will be at the Cenotaph for the D-day service with our standard on Thursday the 6th June the day before our next meeting if anyone wants to join him to pay their respects, your more than welcome.

Bus stop winner: Nige Sisson.

Next meeting 7th June 2024

Arnhem money to be paid in full by this date.

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>