



299 ASSOCIATION RE

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 the members of 131 Independent Commando Squadron RE, 299 Para 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 March 2025 at the Minerva Inn Hull.

Members present:

Tony Alcock, Mike Beardshaw, Brian Bilton, Kev Blacker, Neil Cooper, Terry Cunningham, Derick French, Craig Gadd, Dave Hines, Walter Holbrook, Tony Irwin, Rob Meachen, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Pete Robson, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Lee Smith, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Dave Wollas, Neil Yates.

Apologies:

Gaz Coe, Chris Duggan, Tony Foster, John Harrison, Roger Holding, Syd Hoyle, Dean Ideson, Dave Meeking, Ken Newton, Glenn Ratten, Nigel Sisson, John Thompson.

Guests:

Shaun Klink, Mark Yates.

Chairman:

The Chairman Chris Shillito, opened the evening, and welcomed all members present at the Minerva Inn.

Minutes proposed: A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Pete Robson.

Seconders: Mick Beardshaw.

Treasurer:

Glenn Ratten, our treasurer is away in Spain with our old pal Gaz Coe, Have a good time gents.

£30 was raised with the bus stop and £10 selling photographs of Arnhem we still have a few left if interested get in touch with the chairman. Glenn informed Chris, he is refunding the deposits for the cancelled Normandy trip.

Acting Secretary:

Craig, informed the members on the Cromwell Lock Memorial, taking place on the 28th September 2025. Craig along with Olaf Dudley, Steve Barlow (PSI 301) and Eamon Smyth had completed a recce at Cromwell for the forthcoming 50th Anniversary later this year. On Friday, many points were covered and will update members at the next meeting. Hopefully this will be a big event, with many family members attending coming from Scotland, so please keep your diary free for this event. This will be our focus for the year.

Craig also reminded the members, that you are all eligible for things like the Defence Discount Service, Veterans Rail Card giving you access and discounts from many suppliers. He also reminded members to apply for the Veterans ID Card. Anyone struggling to access these services please contact the Vice Chairman.

<https://www.defencediscountservice.co.uk/>

<https://www.veterans-railcard.co.uk>

<https://www.gov.uk/veteran-card>

Webmaster:

Dave Hines, our webmaster gave an update on the new website and asked if we wanted to go ahead with it, as it is easier to maintain and more practical. A vote was taken, with a unanimous yes. Thanks Dave.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Tomo, apologises he can't be here because he is motorcycling round Vietnam with Tommy, Deano and Stewart Dean, have a great time lads. Be careful out there you're all at that funny age, ha ha.

Tomo, informed us that the Normandy trip is cancelled due to poor numbers, but sent these trip options, with the Les Holland coach company for you to browse. The Chairman read out the options to the members, the dates are as follows.

Normandy tour 4 nights / 5 days 7th April to 11th April 2025, price £390 per person based on two sharing a deposit of £40 required. Price includes coach travel, 4 nights bed and breakfast at the Le Close Beaumont Hotel, Caen.

Battlefield tour and Armistice Day, in Flanders 3 nights / 4 days bed and breakfast 10th-13th November 2025 (France and Belgium) £359 per person based on two sharing a deposit of £40 required. Price includes Executive coach travel, Ferry travel with meal vouchers, 3 night's stay with bread and breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Lille, spending Armistice Day in Flanders and the Menin Gate.

Please Note: These trips are not run by the Association; they are run by the Les Holland Coach company so you will be among other members of the public. We have a lot more details to hand so if you are interested get in touch with the Chairman.

The Chairman contacted Steve Brown about any spare places for the 2025 Arnhem trip and was informed that they are not running a trip and some of their lads have secured places with the Yorkshire branch, so if anyone is interested get in touch with them or ring the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

The Chairman apologised to those members who wanted to go on the cancelled Normandy trip, but only had 14 names so wasn't economically possible to run.

Welfare:

Nil

Any other business:

Nil.

The Chairman Closed the meeting.

Bus stop winner: Kev Blacker

Next meeting: 4th April 2025 20:00hrs at the Minerva.

Dates for your diary

Crowell Lock Memorial 50th Anniversary 28th September 2025

CONTACTS:

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WELFARE:

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>

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