



299 Branch of the Airborne Engineers Association ASSOCIATION

Charity No: 1009201

Date: 2nd August 2013

Members Present: C. Bowden, G. Coe, G. Crum, W. Dick, W. Draper, W. Drayton, J. Duffy, D. Harvey, M. Hookem, A. Irwin, D. Ideason, A. Kitching, J. Mace, A. Mossop, G. Newton, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, C. Shillito, P. Sims, N. Sisson, Martin Tindle, C. Walker, C. Woodward, A. Costello, C. Gadd, T. Cunningham, M. Beardshaw, N. Cooper, W. Harrison.

Apologies: D. Stuart, A. Weldon, K. Russell, S. Knowles, M. Maddison, S. Oliver, K. Saddington, S. Hoyle, L. Love.

Guests: D. Newton.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The chairman welcomed all present then opened the meeting.

Minutes from the last meeting were proposed by a true record?

Proposed by – A. Irwin.

Seconded by – W. Drayton.

Treasure's Report: All monies for Arnhem is overdue, please pay or don't go.
There are a couple of places up for grabs if you can get your cash to Martin NOW

Correspondence: The chairman gave the sad news, (via M. Hookem), that Ernest Westerman died 23rd April 2013 at Jimmy's (Leeds), aged 89. He died peacefully with his family by his side.

The association extends our deepest sympathy to his family. Ernie adopted 299 for his visits back to Arnhem, ex 1st Div; this quiet, unassuming man immediately found friendship amongst the men of 299 Association and will be missed. "Brave and Strong".

Sqn News: Squadron just back from summer camp, some of the boy's are off to the USA on an exchange scheme shortly, it's OK for some.

A recruitment stall was put in place at East Park for the Veterans weekend, apparently not well placed and not many takers, one possible only; you cannot believe it with the unemployment situation in Hull.

Social Calendar: The RAF Coningsby trip to the Battle of Britain flight is on Thursday 15th August, two weeks away, the meeting place for the bus is Ferensway, outside Hull Truck and departure time is 6.45am prompt, no waiting, the driver has a schedule to keep for the benefit of the majority.

Dress Code: Wear anything you like seems to be the general consensus and on this matter I wish to air my feelings. The Battle of Britain MEMORIAL Flight, it's all in the name, our appearance and behaviour must not offend the RAF in anyway, remember the debt we all owe to these young men who gave their lives during WW2, "the highest percentage losses of any of the armed forces" all volunteers, just like us and without them we would now be talking in German, that's for sure. So if you want to wear your shorts, flip-flops and any other honky-tonk garb, stand well away from me, I may be allergic to it, thank you very much.

The 25 places are all taken and if for any reason somebody has to drop out please let me know immediately, there are many reserves in waiting.

Chairman's Comments: The chairman reported on the news that Weldo, (Tony Weldon) has just completed The Nijmegen March for the "U—th" time, that's 100km in 4 days, not bad for an old codger, chairman's words not mine, well done Weldo, "many a old tune played on a old fiddle" is that right?

Items from members: Johnny Mace conveyed the gratitude from the family of Gordon Coupland for his inclusion on our Roll of Honour, it's the least we can do for an old sweat.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Founder Members: I've dug the following out of our archives; some of our members may find it of interest. My recollections of these men is varied and spans from nothing→reasonably good, some of you older vet's will have knowledge far greater than mine, I therefore would ask of you too please make note's so we can collate and make some sort of script for posterity.

For those of you who can be bothered any background information, stories (true or false), units served in during WW2, civilian occupation, hat size, etc. I don't mind how it comes; hand written on toilet paper will do try and avoid using Latin.

Next Meeting: Friday 6th September 2013 at the Minerva 20.00hrs

299 Parachute Field Squadron R.E. (A)

Founder Members



Major G. Widdowson

M.B.E. R.E. T.D.

Major W. Edwards

Sgt R. Leake



Sgt. Beall. C

Cpl. Shearer. B

Spr Ball. D

Spr Edwards. T

Spr Green. F

Spr Harvey. W

Spr Inghold. T

9 Spr Hunt. H

10 Spr Hutchen. F

Spr Peake

Spr Venes. F

The Airborne Squadron

BEVERLEY MAJOR TO
COMMAND T.A. UNIT

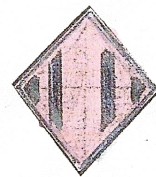
The 299 Airborne Squadron, R.E., to be formed in Hull and the East Riding is part of the new 16th Airborne Division (T.A.), which is commanded by Major General R. E. Urquhart, former commander of the 1st Airborne Division at Arnhem.

Headquarters of the Squadron is the Royal Engineers Drill Hall, Corporation Field, Park Street, Hull, and recruiting has already commenced. The full strength will be 13 officers and 251 other ranks. At present the only eligible personnel are qualified parachutists, of any Regiment or Corps, and tradesmen. A big percentage of the establishment are skilled tradesmen.

The Squadron is to be commanded by Maj. George Widdowson, T.D., of Beverley, a former member of the 4th Parachute Brigade of 1st Airborne Division. Major Widdowson was formerly in the Green Howards, taking the Beverley Company to France in 1940, and served with the 1st Airborne Division in N. Africa, Italy and Arnhem.

Recruiting will be carried on on every night at the Park Street Drill Hall and it is hoped that the majority of the ex-parachutists and ex-airborne people in Hull and area will join up again.

Non-parachutists, providing they are qualified tradesmen are eligible for enlistment and will be welcomed. Travelling expenses are paid to all ranks travelling from the outlying areas, in addition to the bounty and payment for drills. No annual camp is contemplated this year, but week-end camps will be run when the unit is properly under way.



Beverly Guardian 10/5/47