



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: October 2nd, 2026, Monthly Meeting at the Minerva Inn, Hull.

Members present:

Mick Beardshaw, Bri Bilton, Kev Blacker, Neil Busby, Neil Cooper, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Richy Gill, Tom James, Percy McGlynn, Keith Moreley, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Lee Smith, Reece Swatman, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Chris Wilcock, Dave Woollas, Shaun Allan.

Apologies:

Ricky Able, Anthony Alcock, Dave Barker, Gaz Coe, Syd Hoyle, Dean Ideson, Chris Duggan, Kev Saddington, Roger Holding, Lee Cross

Guests:

Chairman:

The chairman John Thompson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting and called for a proposal of the last minutes.

Minutes proposed:

A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Richy Gill

Seconder: 'Percy' McGlynn

Treasurer

Glenn confirmed that the funds remain healthy and that a payment is upcoming to maintain the website and asked if everyone was in agreement to update it? It was agreed by all to keep it running with a reminder to use it as there's lots of photos, history and information on the site.

Secretary

Dave mentioned that a small number of emails showed up as undeliverable when he posted the minutes out and to ensure his pc was okay, he had it checked out and reposted minutes in Word and PDF format as usual. The only other item was an email received from the Chairman regarding comments made at Cromwell Lock which Dave handed this subject back to the chair for discussion. This issue revolved around the maintenance of the memorial and funding towards the maintenance. The maintenance is ongoing and will be monitored this year. Following a vote, it was also agreed to submit our share of a 'maintenance' payment to Birmingham Branch as a donation to the Lock maintenance team. The payment will be split between the Scotland Assn £34, and Birmingham and Hull Assn £33 each.

Vice Chairman

Craig reminded everyone that it was the AEA AGM and dinner next weekend and reminded everyone of the schedule and timings. Craig then ran through his trip to Arnhem this year with the Airborne Forces Riders to represent the association and laid a wreath at Driel then travelling on to other locations to pay their respects on behalf of the association. He then asked if anyone had received info on a site that gets posted out called 'Branch Matters' from the REA that has lots of useful information on news, events, visits etc that are going on. If you're not registered into the REA please follow the link, we'll also put them in the minutes. If you have any problems, give Craig a shout and he'll do it for you.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Capt. Olaf Dudley, 131 Cmdo Sqn RE had originally planned to attend the meeting tonight but due to illness he wasn't able to but, he is hoping to make the November meeting to confirm that the 80th Sqn anniversary is in the planning stages. Dates TBC. Watch this space.

With regard to the Arnhem trip, he couldn't make it to Driel but went on to the DZ and laid crosses for Les Ransom, Colin Bowden and Bill Dick (Seadog).

Re the Normandy trip for 2027, there's been very little input for this trip from all quarters and after contacting Birmingham branch and 144 for numbers, unless we go as a small group it's unlikely a large group trip will take off?

The ARMY V NAVY 1st May 2027, Fri – Sat. Will take place at Kingsbury Arc. Those wishing to attend please let the Chairman know. In January we'll start taking full names and deposits, getting tickets, wristbands etc. Re accommodation, 'Duds' is quite happy to put us all up at 131 so watch this space for January.

Welfare:

John highlighted that it's great to see Bri Bilton back and well done in your recovery.

There was some very bad news about Carl Ham following John's visit to see him in hospital. John informed the meeting that Carl has been diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer, he's in a pretty bad way and spoke to Carl's son on the situation. Carl is in Castle Hill Hospital.

We're reaching out to Veteran's organisations for support for Carl and his family. If you want to visit Carl contact Mike, his son, as he's trying to spread the visits out. If you haven't got his number send a txt to me or Craig and we'll contact his son.

John also gave a reminder for the 8th November Remembrance Parade and we'll have more details of that at the next meeting and we also need to look at the Arnhem 85th Anniversary as that will get booked up fairly quickly and we'll need to organise transport and accommodation.

Any other business: None

Bus stop winner: Mick Beardshaw

Next meeting: Friday 2nd October 2026

With nothing more to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting

Dates for your diary

9th – 11th October 2026 AEA AGM and John Rock Dinner

8th November 2026 Remembrance Parade

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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>

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