



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 August 9th 2026, Monthly Meeting at the Minerva Inn, Hull.

Members present:

Ricky Able, Mick Beardshaw, Kev Blacker, Gaz Coe, Neil Cooper, Lee Cross, Craig Gadd, Paul Hairsine, Dean Ideson, Tony Irwin, Tom James, Steve Knowles, Mike Maddison, Chris Shillito, Les Smith, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Dave Watson, Dave Woollas, Neil Yates.

Apologies:

Tony Alcock, Chris Duggan, Tony Foster, Derek French, Andy Green, Chris Heppenstall, Carl Henrickson, Dave Hines, Roger Holding, Syd Hoyle, Martin Lawrence, Dave Meakin, Adam Morris, Bud Oldfield, Paul Robinson, T Smith, Paul Sims, Reece Swatman, Chris Wilcock, Pete Wilkinson,

Guests: None

Chairman:

John welcomed everyone and opened the meeting thanking everyone for turning up in the peak of the holiday season and then called for a proposal of the last minutes being correct.

Minutes proposed:

A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Ricky Able

Second: Neil Cooper

Treasurer:

Glenn confirmed that the funds remain healthy and that our Association funds have now been transferred over into the REA account system and at the moment he is the only card holder. He proposed that our chairman and vice chairman have a card to cover any circumstances as and when required? This was agreed.

Secretary:

Dave mentioned an apology from Derek French, who had been hoping to make the meeting, but due to his workload and deadlines he couldn't make it. He sends his regards to everyone. He then mentioned the correspondence from the Birmingham branch regarding the status of the memorial and future maintenance arrangements and appreciated that the vice chair was bringing this item up for discussion and handed over to Craig.

Vice Chairman:

Craig started by informing the meeting that this was the last chance to book up for the dinner and AGM. Contact either Steve Wallis or myself asap.

He announced the passing away of Sandy Reed, ex 9 Sqn guy from the '60's period. Condolences on our behalf have been passed on to our national chairman Dave Leibrick.

Re Cromwell Lock: Following correspondence from Eamon Smythe, Birmingham Branch for a joint agreement on the future maintenance of the memorial re removal of the dead roses and relocation of plants to an area behind the memorial. He's also trying to involve North Muskham Village to take on grass cutting etc.

Craig along with volunteers will be going down through August to carry out maintenance work so please let Craig know if you can go. Discussions then followed about the layout of the memorial and further discussions will be had with Eamon. An update will be given at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Re Remembrance Parade in London, you need to shout up now so the tickets can be claimed.

With regard to Normandy, it's been very difficult to get solid commitment from people. At the last count it was 18 people. We haven't got the numbers we want so it was suggested from the floor that we contact Archie from 144 who runs trips over there and Phil Taylor from Yorkshire Branch to possibly link up with them? Chairman reminded the meeting to keep an eye on our WhatsApp site for updates etc. but please confirm asap that you are going on the trip. We need definite numbers now so we know how many we're dealing with.

John then called up WO11 Trg Officer from the Sqn Tom James and is also 1 Troop WO11 Trp CO who then gave an update on his dual role and the intensive activities they've carried out through the year including joint training/exercises with 16 Brigade and also future roles they'll be undertaking.

John also reminded everyone to check out 299 Sqn's site for all the info and photos of their activities.

Kev Blacker, who's 61 years young, was then invited to relate his recent athletic adventure, namely, The Lakes 100, a forty-hour non-stop run that had 700 starters. He commented that the hardest part was taking in 32 miles of hills. He came in on 37 hours. The meeting gave Kev a loud round of applause on his achievement.

John mentioned the Army-Navy Games taking place at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham on Saturday 1st May 2027. Tickets range from £28.00 to £52.00 for adults with junior tickets priced at £5.00. Earlybird discounts and group rates for 11 or more people are also available. If anyone is interested in going, please let him know. Details are also listed in the minutes 'Dates For Your Diary section'.

Any other business: None

Welfare:

Gary Coe stated that he'd been over to see Tony Kitching who's been in Hutton Cranswick Lodge for some time now and it would be appreciated if he got some visitors. He's in room 31. It appears he may not have had any visitors for a while?

Chairman stated he'd tried calling Bri Bilton to see how he's doing but had no luck so far but will check with Deano.

Chris Shillito gave an update on Simbo who's back in Hull Royal again, so if anyone can call in to see him it would be appreciated, he's in Ward 5 room 1. Check with the ward prior to visiting?

Bus stop winner: Martin Tindle

Next meeting: Friday 4th September 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 at The Crown Plaza Hotel, Nottingham
8th November 2026 Remembrance Parade. Details to follow.
1st May 2027 Army v Navy Rugby Match at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham.
Contact 299 Association Chairman John Thompson for tickets

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