



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: May 1st, 2026, Monthly Meeting at the Minerva Inn, Hull.

Airborne Prayer
Absent friends

Members present:

Ricky Able, Tony Alcock, Dave Barker, Mick Beardshaw, Ken Blacker, Gaz Coe, Neil Cooper,
Tony Foster, Craig Gadd, Paul Hairsine, Carl Ham, Dave Hines, Walter Holbrook, Syd Hoyle,
Dean Ideson, Tony Irwin, Paul Jefferson, Steve Knowles, Martin Lawrence, Alan McGlynn,
Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Steve Oliver, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Kev Saddington, Chris Shillito,
Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Lee Smith, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Terry Walker, Tony Weldon,
Pete Wilkinson, Dave Woollas, Neil Yates.

Apologies:

Chris Duggan, Derek French, Richard Gill, Roger Holding, Dave Meeking

Guests:

Stuart Dean

Chairman:

Chris, prior to starting the meeting asked all to rise for the Airborne Prayer followed by a toast to absent friends.

Minutes proposed:

A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Nige Sisson

Seconders: Neil Cooper

Treasurer

Glenn confirmed that the funds remain healthy and that we're in the final stages of joining the REA banking system and looking to going live in June with the membership? He'd received a card from Linda Kitching thanking everyone for the support and donation of a chair for Tony. Glenn then made a personal big thanks to Chris for all the support given to him over the years and that over the years the association has grown, and we've done many things and had some great times.

Secretary

Dave only had one thing to mention and that was a letter from Dave Leibrick, AEA National Chairman, Wales and West Branch Secretary asking for a volunteer to assist Dave Pace in putting together the AEA Journal. (See attached Letter)

Vice Chairman

Craig started by informing the meeting that he'd sat in the OGM of the AEA via a Zoom meeting. (minutes from the meeting to follow) But the main point was that we managed to secure funds for transport for next year's trip. The push is for the 6th June which is the date of 299's 20th Anniversary with lots going on celebrating that milestone, and there's quite a few of us going. Please let him know if you're interested in going, so he can forward numbers. If we get enough going, we'll see about putting transport on? Details are on the WhatsApp Group. Re the OGM, there are 42 places for Remembrance in London, each branch to get approx. 3-4 places. Anyone wishing to go to contact Craig and he'll forward names on. If anyone is doing anything i.e., Charity rides, group activities re 299 etc please supply an article for the journal as they're always asking for items.

Also, a reminder of the AEA AGM and John Rock Dinner on October 9th – 11th 2026 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Nottingham, there's only a few places left so if you want to go book asap. Payment for the hotel is not required until the weekend. There's also a cocktail party at Regiment in June if anyone is interested to let him know. Re financial assistance for welfare issues, funds are potentially available through benevolence funds etc through the REA and if anyone requires urgent assistance, please speak to the committee.

The PRI Shop, this is potentially going back to the Regiment as Jon Nichols is standing down with immediate effect, due to being made redundant from his full time job.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Our Webmaster, Dave Hines, has informed me that nobody is using the website? So, when it comes up for renewal maybe it's time to let it go? But a big thanks to Dave for designing it and running it for many years.

The Roll of Honour board is now up to date with our friend's names up there for all to see and I would like to say thanks to Gary Coe for making 3 of these lovely boards at his own expense. (A round of applause)

One of the best things about being Chairman is you get to give the lads who deserve a presentation one, so I have a couple of them to present tonight. For doing seven outstanding years on the committee as our treasurer, he is very careful with our money and his motto is: In God I trust everybody else pays?

Please come up Glenn to receive this well-deserved presentation from the men of 299 Association. Talk about dedication, Glenn travels all the way from Cleethorpes to be our treasurer, virtually every month without fail.

I have another presentation to make to somebody who is a great friend of mine, that has attended just about every meeting since I took over 13yrs ago and supported me and the committee faithfully, having his own health issues over the years, so Neil Cooper will you please come up and accept the Les Ransom trophy which is awarded to a member each year, well deserved mate.

Gentlemen, this is my last night as your Chairman, I hope I have done a decent job for you, I don't always get it right, but I am 299 through and through, after 43yrs in 299 and 13yrs on the committee I don't think anyone can dispute that. I would like to thank the serving committee for their hard work and for supporting me through my time as chairman, and thanks to two guys who did over 10 years each on the committee, Martin Tindle (treasurer) and Gaz Coe (secretary) who both did a fantastic job of making the association better.

It's time for the committee to stand down now, does anyone want a job on the committee?

Archivist, Webmaster, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chairman.

I have received a formal application for the position of Chairman's post by a well-known 299 stalwart, John Thompson. Would anyone else like to put their names forward for the post? (Vote) Unanimous

I would like to welcome John to the post, and I hope you will support him as you have supported me. I know he will do a great job as Chairman, and we already have a great Vice Chairman so a good team all round and I wish them and all the committee the best of luck.

So, this is Shags signing off as your Chairman.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have been your Chairman, it only leaves me to thank you the members, you guys, without you there is no association, we have guys coming from all over the country, London, Cleethorpes, Doncaster, Selby, outstanding behaviour.

I know as Chairman I have made decisions that not everyone agrees with, that's part of the job. But if I have upset anyone in the last 13yrs I would like you to know, I couldn't give a f...k!

Seriously lads, support your committee by attending the meetings, it's only 1 hour a month so get yourselves there.

John, can you come over for a handover photograph and the committee stand at the back of us.

Over to you mate, I drink Shipyard if anyone is interested?

Any other business:

Ricky Able and Chris Duggan are organising a trip to Normandy, hopefully in June. If you're interested then please let them know.

Election of Committee

The committee was re-elected, and John Thompson was elected as the new Chairman.

John was then invited up by Chris to hand over Chairmanship to him. John then reminded the meeting of the immense dedication that Chris gave to 299 in every aspect of his roles with the troop.

Following this, Craig was invited up to say a few words on the outstanding legacy that Chris brought to 299 and the inspiration and spirit he gave to everyone. (Attached)

Welfare: No issues raised

Bus stop winner: Gaz Coe

Next meeting: June 5th, 2026

With nothing more to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting

Dates for your diary

6th June 2026 299 Para Sqn Reformation Anniversary, Wakefield, 1pm –Midnight
(Check with Craig or 299 Para Sqn for further details)

25th July Regimental Reunion Day at Rock Barracks, Woodbridge, Suffolk

9th – 11th October 2026 AEA AGM and John Rock Dinner at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Nottingham

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>

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