



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: July 3rd, 2026, Monthly Meeting at the Minerva Inn, Hull.

Members present:

Mick Beardshaw, Neil Cooper, Tony Foster, Craig Gadd, Paul Hairsine, Carl Ham, Tony Irwin, Steve Knowles, Alan (Percy) McGlynn, Kev Millington, Keith Morley, Pete Robson, Ken Russell, Kev Saddington, Andy Thomas, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Dave Watson, Dave Woollas, Neil Yates.

Apologies:

Ricky Able, Tony Alcock, Kev Blacker, Gaz Coe, Chris Duggan, Craig Heppenstall, Dave Hines, Roger Holding, Syd Hoyle, Tom James, Martin Lawrence, Adam Morris, Bud Oldfield, Paul Robinson, Chris Shillito, Lee Smith, Reece Swatman, Chris Wilcock

Guests: None

Chairman:

John welcomed everyone and opened the meeting and called for a proposal of the last minutes being correct.

Minutes proposed:

A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Tony Irwin

Second: Martin Tindle

Treasurer:

Chairman welcomed Glenn back who stated that hopefully, we would be swapped over to the new national account system and that he's just waiting for the new card and then all the paperwork can be swapped over? Glenn also confirmed that the funds remain healthy.

Secretary

Dave hoped that everyone had received a copy of the email from Nigel Spencer regarding the subsidised trip to Normandy in May 2027 and also provided paper copies of the details just in case anyone preferred a hard copy?

Vice Chairman

Craig informed the meeting that a number of members went to the 299 Reformation 20th Anniversary Parade stating that it was an absolutely brilliant day and very well put on with lots of old and new faces attending. A very big thank you to the OC and to everyone involved in the organising and running of the event that made it a great success.

Re Cromwell Lock: Our secretary and his wife went over to the Lock through June. Dave then outlined the condition of the area on and around the memorial following a period of very hot dry weather and a rundown of the work they carried out. He also mentioned the good rapport with the new lock keeper. Craig then asked for volunteers to go with him in August.

With regards to the AEA AGM and John Rock dinner on 9th-11th October, more rooms have been added along with more tables and 299 have been allocated a table to seat 10-11 members. He reminded everyone, if you're going, get it booked as soon as possible please, you don't have to pay anything until the actual weekend. Just ring the hotel to get your room booked ASAP please. Nothing to pay till October.

Chelsea Hospital visits, the Yorkshire branch went in May, it was a really good visit and if anyone wants to go to let Craig know: Dates are; 23 July, 22nd October and 21st November. Remembrance Parade, London, 42 tickets allocated, if we don't use them, we'll lose them, so if you want to go let me know.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Re 299 Sqn 1 Troop, Tom James is coming, hopefully to the next meeting, to give an update on what they've been getting up to.

Situation on Bri Bilton, Deano visited last week and confirmed Bri was well enough for visitors. John and Craig went last Tuesday. He's pulled through the operation and looks really well, moving around and in good spirits. He's on Ward 10 Castle Hill Hospital, building 48M, visiting between 11am -7pm. (01482 623010) Check before going as there may be the possibility of him going home soon?

John then asked Saddy to give a rundown on how his and Percy's trip to Normandy went as it's something we as an association want to do. Saddy described how the guides were absolutely amazing taking them to the various beaches explaining everything that went on, along with personal stories that occurred at each location. Saddy finished by explaining what an historical trip it was and very worthwhile doing. Percy then described his experience when being shown around the Port-en-Bessin area where 47 Cmdo made a crucial, successful assault on a heavily fortified position. The locals and guides were very appreciative of their visit and very informative with their history of that period.

This was followed up by John suggesting that we look into organising a trip to Normandy around May next year, following the guide lines that Saddy and Percy experienced. So, please show you interest as soon as possible.

Any other business:

Welfare:

Bus stop winner: Kev Saddington

Next meeting: Friday 7th August 2026

With nothing more to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting

Dates for your diary

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

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