



299 ASSOCIATION RE

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 4th April 2025 at the Minerva Inn Hull.

Members present:

Ricky Able, Mike Beardshaw, Brian Bilton, Neil Cooper, Chris Duggan, Derek French, Dave Hines, Roger Holding, Dean Ideson, Tony Irwin, Paul Jefferson, Martin Lawrence, Bob Meachen, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Nigel Sissons, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Dave Woolas, Neil Yates.

Apologies:

Tony Alcock,
Gary Coe, Terry Cunningham, Craig Gadd, John Harrison, St Hoyle, Dave Meekin, Steve Oliver, Lee Smith, Terry Walker,

Guests:

None

Minutes proposed:

A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Bud Oldfield.

Seconder: Mick Beardshaw.

Treasurer

Our treasurer Glenn told the meeting that the funds are healthy and all deposits from the Normandy trip have been returned.

Acting Secretary

Our acting Secretary Craig is in Colorado on holiday we hope he has a great time. He sent a couple of messages of upcoming events that require action below:

Invite from the RSM for VE Day celebrations at Rock barracks anyone interested.

SSgt L Sadler-Smith | 2 Troop SSgt | 51 Para Sqn RE | 23 Para Engr Regt | Rock Barracks | Woodbridge | Suffolk

Dear Sir,

VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration

Date: 8th May 2025.

Location: Woodbridge Station.

One member plus a guest from the Hull Branch of the Airborne Engineers Association are cordially invited to Woodbridge Station to honour this significant milestone in history and celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day!

PFA – Invitation and event poster.

Historical Background:

On 8th May 1945, millions of people across Europe celebrated the end of World War II in Europe. Known as Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), this day marked the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces. The surrender was signed on 7th May 1945 in Reims, France, and came into effect the following day.

The celebrations were a mix of relief and joy, as people took to the streets to commemorate the end of years of conflict and hardship. In Britain, street parties, fireworks, and gatherings at iconic locations like Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace were common. VE Day symbolised not only the end of the war in Europe but also the beginning of a new era of peace and rebuilding.

Here are some local places to stay around Woodbridge, Suffolk:

1. *Grove House Hotel: A small, friendly, family-run hotel located on the outskirts of Woodbridge. It offers en-suite bedrooms, a bar and restaurant, and plenty of free parking.*
2. *Seckford Hall Hotel and Spa: An elegant country house nestled in 34 acres of stunning grounds. It features a range of leisure facilities, a stylish spa, a 2 AA Rosette restaurant, and a Tudor-era bar.*
3. *Ufford Park Resort: This modern Golf & Spa Resort is set in 120 acres of parkland, located just off the A12 road. It offers a range of amenities including a golf course, spa, and restaurant.*

4. *The Crown Hotel: A stylish inn with contemporary, boutique-style rooms, free Wi-Fi, a lavish bar, and a 2 AA Rosette award-winning restaurant.*
5. *The Bull Inn: A historic coaching inn located in the centre of Woodbridge, overlooking Market Hill. It offers comfortable rooms and a well-stocked bar.*
6. *Sun Lane Cottage: A charming and cozy holiday home with beautifully decorated interiors, located close to local shops and restaurants.*
7. *Number Nineteen: A modern and well-equipped holiday home with a garden and terrace, offering a peaceful yet convenient location.*

If you need more information or have any other questions, feel free to ask.

There is a zoom meeting every one invited. details below:

Dear All,

Please find below the Zoom meeting login for the 2025 OGM to be held on Wednesday 30th April starting at 18.30. Secretaries, please forward onto your branch members or other you may know who are not members of a branch.

We will be developing the agenda over the next couple of weeks and distribute it in advance of the meeting. As well as the usual agenda items, there will be an update on the merger. However, if there is anything specific member want to include, please drop me a line with the detail and who is going to present it.

REgards

Mike Robertson BEM
AEA National Secretary
07958650592

[cid:image001.png@01DB9B22.74431BB0]

Michael Robertson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81199908844?pwd=52FtpmsfGoato51kxCB8XIJPAzcJoN.1>

Meeting ID: 811 9990 8844

Passcode: 347645

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

Tim Van Der Kraan the chairman of the Chatham branch of the AEA congratulated 299 and our webmaster Dave on making a professional well put together and informative and an excellently read web site.

CROMWELL LOCK

Our two volunteers for maintaining the monument in May are Richy Gill and Percy McGlynn if you need any gardening equipment get in touch with the Chairman

John Thompson is going to Chicago to work for a year to show the Yanks how to run things and has kindly offered anyone who is in the US or in the Chicago area to get in touch and he will look after you. Not done to bad for a lad from Hessele Road.

Welfare:

Our old pal Willy Harrison is having a rough time with his treatment at the moment as he is taking part in a trial, We wish him all the best and hope everything goes well.

Any other business:

None

Bus stop winner:

Tomo

Next meeting:

The next meeting which is the AGM will be on the 2nd May at the Minerva this is the most important meeting of the year it would be great to have a good attendance for our annual photo.

Dates for your diary:

Crowell Lock Memorial 50th Anniversary 28th September 2025

CONTACTS:

Web site address: www.299association.co.uk

Chairman: Chris Shillito, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Mob: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman & Acting Secretary: Craig Gadd, craig.gadd@hotmail.com Mob: 07771880733

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Mob: 07795248328.

Web Master: Dave Hines, davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Mob: 07821698522.

Archivist: Tony Irwin, bigtirwin@hotmail.com Tel; 01482 793847, Mb: 07928956592.

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.