



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 6th Feb. 2026 At the Minerva Inn Hull.

Members present:

Ricky Able, Tony Alcock, Mike Beardshaw, Kev Blacker, Gary Coe, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Carl Ham, Tony Irwin, Keith Morley, Pete Robson, Kenny Russell, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Les Smith, Andy Thomas, Martin Tindle, Terry Walker, Tony Weldon, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Terry Cunningham, Chris Duggan, Dave Hines, Roger Holding, Syd Hoyle, Mike Maddison, Glenn Ratten, Paul Robinson, Rhys Swatman, John Thompson, Dave Watson.

Guests:

Ben Fraser

Chairman:

The Chairman Chris Shillito, started by saying we'd had a bad year last year losing a lot of good 299 men. The Chairman then called everyone to stand and toast 'absent friends' Tony Irwin then recited the exhortation.

*Rest In Piece
Ole Nelson-Girtchen,
Dave Harvey,
Bob Meachen,
Mick Halliday,
John (Willy) Harrison.
Alan Cross.*

Treasurer: Nothing to report, due to treasurer's absence.

Secretary: Only item to mention was that information forwarded from the Birmingham Branch highlighting the details of the proposed Branch merger and the Yorkshire Branch Normandy trip details had been posted out.

Vice Chairman: Craig reminded the meeting that we are now a National Branch of the Royal Engineers Association (Airborne) but there's only twenty members on the data base and there's twenty-one of us here tonight. He's asked on several occasions for you to please send your details in or get your details over to the REA. We're about eighty strong and joining the REA could be of great benefit to our association, so please follow the link in the minutes, fill the form in and send it in, or send Craig your details and he'll fill it in for you. There's also a link to the REA on the AEA web site and within these minutes. If your details are recorded you would have received a hard copy of the REA Journal along with, this year's AGM booking proforma which will be held on the 9th-11th October in Nottingham. We didn't go to Scotland last year so it would be nice to have a good show of strength this year's event.

Please note the application form for the AGM Dinner is attached to the end of these minutes below the contacts and welfare page.

Re: Normandy, Yorkshire Branch are running a trip this year so speak to Phil Taylor, get your name on there if you want to go. You should have received the details on this that Dave sent out.

Link for the REA Membership site: <https://members.reahq.org.uk/Membership-Application>

Chairmans Comments:

Chris, began by announcing we'd received £2000.00 from the AEA, and decisions were needed as to how best to use it? This will be discussed in depth on our treasurer's return.

A new Roll of Honour board is needed, to honour the lads we have lost. Arrangements for this are ongoing.

Re Cromwell Lock: Although there won't be another large scale event for another five years but will maintain a yearly service as the Birmingham Branch, and the Lincolnshire PRA have voted that they want to attend every year, but it won't be on the scale of last year.

The usual arrangements between 299 Association and the Birmingham Branch will be made to maintain the memorial as usual. Eamon Smyth, from Birmingham is going to have look to see what work is required. We'll then ask for volunteers and a rota and will be organised as previous years.

Chris then thanked everyone for turning up and closed the meeting.

Bus stop winner: Tony Alcock

Welfare: No concerns raised

Any other business: Ricky Able and Chris Duggan have proposed they would like to organise a trip to Normandy for 2027. Details to follow.

Although I forgot to mention earlier, Craig bumped into Dave Meekin and asked him to mention him to the lads. He cannot get in regularly as he is caring for his wife Pauline. He is hoping to get to a meeting at some point or to the pie club on a Thursday.

Next meeting: 6th March 2026

Dates for your diary: 9th – 11th October REA AGM Dinner.

Please note that the Application Form and details are attached below the contacts and welfare page.

CONTACTS:

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

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

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

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

Secretary: Dave Woollas, dave.hotstepscountry@hotmail.co.uk

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.

AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION – EAST MIDLANDS SOCIAL BRANCH
Annual AGM & John Rock Dinner: 9th – 11th October 2026 Crowne Plaza Hotel
Nottingham

Please copy this application form to: stephen.wallis57@ntlworld.com or to my home address – 22 Clumber Avenue, Edwinstowe, Notts, NG21 9PE so that we can keep a track of numbers – **DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO THE HOTEL**

Surname:

Forename:

Surname:

Forename:

email address:

Tel No:

Arrival Date:

Departure Date:

Accommodation

Note: ALL ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL

- Super King, Standard Room with Full English Breakfast, Double Occupancy - £130 Per Night
- Super King Standard Room with Full English Breakfast, Single Occupancy - £115 Per Night

Double/Twin room for double occupancy @ £130.00 per room per night - No of Rooms: No of Nights:
Double room for single occupancy @ £115.00 per room per night - No of Rooms: No of
Nights:

Reservation & Payment:

Your Payment Card Details will secure your booking, Due to GDPR, we cannot accept payment details on booking form. Please contact Hotel directly to make any accommodation Bookings.

Contact: Chloe Bedingfield Special events organiser, Phone: 01159 369 936

Please quote: Airborne Engineers Association AGM: code W7Y

Applications must be made by no later than 29th August 2026. Any rooms not booked by this date will be surrendered and the package price will increase for late bookers.

For additional nights and Room upgrades: Contact the Hotel directly.

Car Parking:

There is ample car parking on site at a cost of £10 per car per night. Car registration details may be required on arrival.

Visitor Charge:

Nottingham City Council is currently considering the introduction of a 'Visitor Charge' which, if approved, will be introduced in 2026. If introduced, the charge will be additional to the room rates quoted above and will be payable by the person making the booking.

Please continue on next sheet

Meals

ALL GUESTS FOR THE FRIDAY BUFFET AND JOHN ROCK DINNER TO PAY AEA EAST MIDLANDS and NOT THE HOTEL

- Friday Night Hot/Cold Buffet - £27.00 per Head
- Saturday John Rock Dinner - £40 Per Head

Requirements

Friday Night Hot Cold Buffet: £27.00 per Head – Total no of People:

Saturday Night John Rock Dinner: £40.00 per Head – Total No of People:

All payments to be paid by Bank Transfer to S D Wallis, Sort Code: 30-96-18, Acct No: 06331538 (Please quote Name & AGM2026 in reference section)

John Rock Dinner Seating - If possible, please seat me with:

Special Dietary requirements/allergies:

Any access requirements i.e. wheelchair access:

NB: All raffle prizes will be gratefully received and kindly accepted, preferably gift wrapped.

Name (In Capitals):

Signature:

Any queries contact: Steve Wallis – stephen.wallis57@ntlworld.com