



299 ASSOCIATION

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 past and present members of 299 Squadron RE.
Promoting and encouraging such events as may bring pleasure to all members of this association.
Relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of this association.
Promoting and maintaining contact with the members of 131 Independent Squadron RE; and all other Airborne/Commando associations.

W. Dick, (Seadog), 2/8/2002

Date: Friday 1st July 2022, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva

Members Present: W Albrook, K Blacker, T Cunningham, C Gadd, C Ham, D Harvey, A Irwin, T James, P Jefferson, R Meachen, B Oldfield, F Pougher, G Ratten, P Robson, K Russel, C Shillito, P Sims, N Sisson, J Thompson, T Walker, A Weldon, N Yates.

Apologies: R Able, A Alcock, D Barker, M Beardshaw, B Bilton, G Coe, N Cooper, C Duggan, D Hines, S Hoyle, D Ideson, M Lawrence, M Maddison, A McGlynn, D Meekin, S Oliver, L Smith, R Swatman, Mart Tindle, D Woolas.

Guests: I Robinson

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present to our July meeting and was very pleased to see a good turnout considering lots of members are away on holiday.

Chris thanked the Vice Chairman **Craig Gadd**, for standing in as secretary for **Gary Coe**

Minutes from the last meeting were proposed as a true record.

Proposed by – D Harvey
Seconded by – Tony Irwin

Treasure's Report:

Glen Ratten brought the meeting up to date with the associations finances and reminded us that the bank account had now changed and was up and running so we now have an online account making payments to

and from much easier all round. Anyone wanting to pay any monies online please speak to **Glen** as the account details have changed.

Glen went on to say that there was just a couple of outstanding payment from members for Arnhem to be made and that there was just one place left on the trip. Anyone wanting to go please contact the chairman asap

Correspondence

A number of 299 Association men attended the following in Torrevieja, Costa Blanca:

A Service & Paraded to Celebrate Armed Forces Day, took place at:

La Iglesia de la Immaculate Concepción, de Torrevieja on Saturday, 25th June 2022.

This was well attended hundreds, if not thousands witnessed the RBL Band lead the parade before taking full part in the Church service.

Branch Standards were received for a full military service aided by the pipes of Major Brian Day who played the lament 'Hector the Hero'

The Exhortation was delivered along with The Kohima Epitaph as a part of the Act Of Remembrance: Last Post-Two minutes silence and Reveille, the National Anthem's followed by a Blessing, then the Standards were paraded outside the Church to Elgar's Nimrod played by the RBL Band, before paraded down the main Street to take the salute.

Many expats veterans attended this event including members of this association.



A few members (18) of the Airborne Forces Riders including myself, went to Normandy over the D-Day celebrations to pay our respects and remember the fallen who paid the ultimate sacrifice on D-Day 78 yrs ago. We had a great few day's visiting the beaches, various British and commonwealth cemeteries and museums. Most of us stayed in Bayeux, which is a great place to stay and is very central to all the beaches for anyone wanting to do the D-Day tour in the future. Over the 3 days we managed to cover quite a bit of ground and visit a lot while we were there. Jack Hawkins was our tour guide and fellow member of AFR which really makes a big difference when visiting these sites. We started the tour on the 5th June at St Mere-Eglise and Museum, Brecourt Manoir, Pont-du-hoc and Utah Beach. On 6th we started the day at Pegasus Bridge, Ranville Cemetery and the Merville Gun Battery, visiting Sword, Juno and Gold beaches on the 7th and the American cemetery at Omaha which was very moving and humbling place to visit. It was a great few days away in Normandy with a few beers and nice food in between visiting these D-Day sites, to pay our respects and remember the sacrifices made for our freedom that we all enjoy today, with fellow airborne veterans who love bikes.





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The 32nd AGM & Reunion will be hosted by the Birmingham Branch AEA.
The Hotel lies at the centre of the motorway network and is easily accessible.
The Hotel is situated next to Birmingham Airport on the A45 and in close proximity to Birmingham International Railway Station. The Holiday Inn hotel has a Gym, Swimming Pool, Sauna/Steam Room and Jacuzzi.
If any member or Branch would like any further information, you can contact:

AEA Birmingham.

Tom Smith. smithtom131@gmail.com Mobile 07736666337.
Roger Howles. r.howles301@gmail.com Mobile 07831262512
Steve Brown. stevebrown4@hotmail.com Mobile 07702597546

Kind Regards
Steve Brown
On behalf of the Birmingham Branch AEA

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Chairman's Comments:

Chris informed the meeting of the service of remembrance that took place in Hull for the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War. Our very own **Tony Irwin** paraded as usual with our standard and took part in the procession that went from Trinity Square across Posterngate on to Trinity House Lane, Whitefriargate, Carr Lane, Queen Victoria Square, King Edward St, and Jameson St, to the cenotaph. Another short service was held, and wreaths were laid. However, **Tony** couldn't as he was carrying the standard, so after all of that, he went home got changed went back and laid the wreath on the association's behalf, outstanding!

Tony also mentioned it was AF Day on the 16th July at Eden Camp, Parade starts at 11:30 followed by a service of remembrance. Free entry to those wearing a marron beret.

Tony also paraded the standard at a service on the 6th June for the 78yr anniversary of D-Day it certainly has been a busy month for **Tony**.

Items from members:

Nigel Sisson's invited everyone to his reception on the evening of the 8th October 2022 at Canham Turner, Hull University from 18:30. Please RSVP Nigel on 07976979826

Dave Harvey mentioned it was Beverley's Armed Forces Day this Sunday from 10:00

An update was given by **Tomo** on **Nick Greenham's** recovery and that **Nick** had been taken back into hospital with ophthalmic shingles, totally different to the original problem but has caused a big loss of balance.

The association wishes **Nick** well and a speedy recovery and thanks to **Cheryl** his wife for taking great care of **Nick**

Simbo's Bus Stop:

Won by **Simbo**

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

Next Meeting: Friday 5th August kick off 20:00 hrs.

WITH NOTHING MORE TO DISCUSS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING THANKING ALL FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE

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Dates for your diary:

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2022

15TH – 19TH September 2022, all details to follow for the people going on this trip.

32nd AGM Birmingham 2022

32nd AGM will be held in Birmingham Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport 21st – 23rd October 2022 anyone wanting to attend can book directly with the Birmingham Branch

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13th NOV. 2022, muster 9:30hrs down Pease Street, Anlaby Road, Hull. Dress for parade & service at the Cenotaph.

1 Troop 299 Squadron are parading in Hull this year and will be sharing the buffet at the Minerva with the association.

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690, Mb: 07877277288.

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

Secretary: Gaz Coe, coeblimey240@gmail.com Tel: 01757 268188.

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

Web Master: Dave Hines, davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 860981, Mb: 07821698522.

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

WELFARE:

The veterans Hub & Forum, coordinator Callum Day for all your problems

Address: Goodwin Community Hub, Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 2LL, (opposite the `Tigers Lair`).

Tel: 01482 485958, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org