



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: July 4th, 2025, Monthly Meeting at the Minerva Inn, Hull.

Members present:

Tony Alcock, Mike Beardshaw, Neil Cooper, Craig Gadd, Richard Gill, Carl Henrickson, Water Holdbrook, Tony Irwin, Paul Jefferson, Percy McGlynn, Keith Morley, Pete Robson, Kenny Russel, Kev Saddington, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Martin Tindle, Terry Walker, Tony Weldon, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Kev Blacker, Gaz Coe, Terry Cunningham, Chris Duggan, Paul Duggan, John Harrison, John Harrison, Martin Lawrence, Dean Ideson, Bud Oldfield, Paul Robinson, Chris Shillito, Rhys Swatman, John Thompson.

Guests:

None.

Vice Chairman:

The Vice Chairman Craig Gadd, opened the meeting in Chris's absence who had sent his apologies and welcomed all members present to the Minerva Inn. Craig informed members for those that didn't know the sad news of Bob Meachen's, passing on the 11th July 2025 Craig asked everyone to be upstanding and asked Tony Irwin to read the Exhortation in Memory of Bob Meachen, whose funeral took place on Friday 4th July 2025. Glasses were then raised for Bob and absent friends.

Minutes proposed:

That is a true record of the last month's meeting.

Proposer: Mick Beardshaw.

Seconded: Neil Cooper.

Treasurer

Our treasurer Glenn Ratten, was on holiday cruising around the Greek islands, hopefully not with our cheque book. With nothing to report and nothing paid out, we shall assume the funds are "still healthy".

Vice Chairman

Craig, went on to inform members that 299 were represented at Bob's funeral by our Chairman Chris Shillito, Bud Oldfield, Paul Sims, Martin Lawrence, Tony Weldon, Dave Hines, Martin Tindle, Dave Woollas. providing a guard of honour for Bob. Bob's family were very grateful to 299 Association, for showing so much respect for Bob and the family.

Cromwell Maintenance:

Volunteers were then asked to carry out some maintenance for this month at Cromwell Lock in preparation for the memorial service on Sunday 28th September 2025. A new rose has been left at the lock for planting, to replace one of them as one had died. There is also some black paint to paint the railings along with some gold paint to do the tops.

Craig thanked Richy Gill and Percy McGlynn, for a great job doing their garden maintenance at Cromwell lock memorial last month. If anyone can spare a few hours, please let the committee know as these needs planting asap before the new rose bush dies.

Nige Sisson asked a question regarding the possibility of accommodation and pubs at or near Cromwell Lock for those wishing to stay overnight etc? and or if any decision had been made on getting a minibus.

Secretary's Comments on this:

The following locations may be helpful for those wishing to stay overnight.

1. Wigwam Holidays, Orchard Stables, Collingham. Email:
orchardstables@wigwamholidays.com

Primary telephone number: 44 7779219404

(Note: This is showing as a 17min drive from Cromwell Lock)

2. Milestone Caravan Park, near the village of Cromwell. Tel: 01636 821244

(Note: This is showing as a 6min drive from Cromwell Lock)

3. Camper UK Leisure Park, Swinethorpe Church Road, Lincs. Tel: 01522 702651 – 07910921950

(Note: This site is approx a 25min drive from Cromwell Lock.)

Nearest brewery

1. Milestone Brewery & Tap. Great North Road, Cromwell.

Cont.

Last month Craig asked if anyone was interested in attending the Cenotaph in London as 299 Association had been allocated four places for the parade. Three had been taken already by Kev Blacker, Lee Smith and Carl Ham. Anyone wish to go please let the Vice chairman know before the end of August were names need to be finalised and put forward for security.

The June edition of the AEA journal was out. You can read this on the AEA web site, the secretary will add to these minutes. Prizes if you can spot Tony Weldon in the picture in Aden. There is also other news on the regiment the REA Airborne, merger, and all things AEA related. You should get a copy of this sent to your inbox, if not please let me know and I will get you added to the database.

The John Rock Dinner and AGM will take place at the MacDonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa Falkirk which the Scottish branch is hosting on the weekend of the 17th – 19th October 2025 Details will also be attached.

Although Craig forgot to mention, our standard bearer and Tony Irwin, had been very busy this week attending 4 events parading the 299 Association standard. Absolutely outstanding Tony and a very big thank you from all at 299 Association.

Welfare:

NTR

Any other business

NTR

Bus stop winner:

No bus stop as Simbo forgot to bring it.

Next meeting:

Will be on the 8st August 2025 at The Minerva Inn, Hull.

With no more to discuss the Vice Chairman closed the meeting.

Dates for your diary

Cromwell lock.

50th Anniversary to be held at the lock on the 28th September 2025 service to commence at 1100hrs.

Remembrance Parade

9th November Hull more details will be available nearer the time.

CONTACTS:

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

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

Vice Chairman: Craig Gadd 299gaddy@gmail.com Mob: 07771880733

Secretary: Dave Wollas dave.hotstepscountry@hotmail.co.uk Mob: 07951501025

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.