



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: June 6th, 2025, Monthly Meeting at the Minerva Inn Hull.

Members present:

Mike Beardshaw, Kevin Blacker, Neil Cooper, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Carl Ham, Tony Irwin, Martin Lawrence, Bob Meachen, Kev Millington, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Lee Smith, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Tony Alcock, Gaz Coe, Terry Cunningham, Chris Duggan, Richard Gill, Andy Green, John Harrison, Carl Henrickson, Roger Holding, Syd Hoyle, Dean Ideson, Mike Maddison, Will Mahon, Dave Meekin, Steve Oliver, Paul Robinson, Kev Saddington, Nigel Sisson, John Thompson, Chris Wilcock, Neil Yates.

Guests:

None.

Chairman:

The chairman Chris Shillito, opened the evening and welcomed all members present to the Minerva Inn. Chris informed members that Markus Hose former Lt, and Tp Cmdr 301 had passed away. The Exhortation was read by Craig Gadd. Glasses raised and toasted absent friends.

Minutes proposed:

A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Bob Meacham.

Seconded: Kev Blacker.

Treasurer

Our treasurer Glenn Ratten, informed the members that the funds are still healthy. Glenn also welcomed Dave Woollas, the new Secretary.

Vice Chairman

Craig Gadd, informed the members that Markus had passed away on the 6th May at home surround by his family. Markus was only 43 and is survived by his wife Francesca and their two children Aurora and Oscar.

Markus's funeral that took place 22nd May at Oakley Wood Crematorium, Leamington Spa. His father read the eulogy, followed with readings and poems from former colleagues and friends. Then afterwards at a local pub for refreshments and to share a few stories with former serving members of the Sqn, family members and friends of Markus. Capt. Olaf Dudley had organised messages to be sent from former Sqn members who knew and served with Markus, so he could produce a book of ditts and memories, to send to the family, which was laid on a table for all to read. The family was very grateful for this, thank you Duds for organising this. It was a very good turn out from from former Oc's, officers, seniors, and men from the Squadron. RIP Markus.

Craig also informed members, that he and few other fellow riders from the Airborne Forces Riders with partners, had just done a motorcycle trip around the coastline of Scotland on the NC500. 1700 mile round trip in total.

Bringing together a route of just over 500 miles (516 to be exact...) of stunning coastal scenery, white sandy beaches, rugged mountains, remote fishing villages, hidden gems, and a wealth of unforgettable experiences; the North Coast 500 is one of the world's most beautiful road trips.

They also called in at the bridge at Toscaig, near Applecross, to visit the bridge that the men of the then 299 Tp, built back in June 1996, some 29 years earlier, a NEB (non equipment bridge) and it was still standing, albeit looking a little worse for wear, a bit like the guys who built it. But as Kev Blacker said, we're also still standing too, just!

Also, they stopped off at the Commando memorial at Spean Bridge to pay our respects to fallen colleagues.

On his return home, Craig had also been invited to A MERT Club dinner, at the RAF Museum Midlands, as a guest from the CASEVAC club. (details of which can be found below) 8 members from the CASVAC Club were guests of honour at the dinner and we all sat on different tables. Craig sat on his table with other guests for the evening and had introduced himself to everyone on the table when the Club Secretary had started to do his intros and welcomes. He started to inform everyone that 8 special guests were sat amongst everyone, and please chat to them, "after all they were our customers at some point" He then went on to say that one lucky chap was sat next to the medic that had helped save his life some 15 years earlier and that some was Craig Gadd, he's sat next to Andy Smith a paramedic that had picked him up from the battlefield as a VSI (Very Serious Injured) casualty after he had stood on an Victim Operated IED, in the area close to one of the patrol bases he was work from in Helmand Province, when Craig was deployed in Afghanistan 2010. It was a very emotional night to say the least. Craig has always wanted to thank those that helped save his life some 15 years earlier. A great evening was had by all.

<https://www.mertclub.co.uk>

<https://casevac.org.uk>

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chris also welcomed Dave Woollas, on to the committee as the new Secretary. Craig will now sit back a little as the Vice Chairman guiding Dave in his new role.

A big thank you to Richy Gill and Percy McGlynn, for a great job doing their garden maintenance at Cromwell lock memorial. We also need volunteers for July.

Cromwell lock preparations, for the 50th anniversary is gaining momentum thanks to Mike Holdsworth and team, who has taken the lead on this, A big thank you to all involved, 299 Association will be there if any help is required.

The night of the meeting was the 6th June, D Day, and our standard bearer Tony Irwin paraded at the Hull cenotaph with our standard. Thank you, Tony.

We would also like to wish Tony and Sue Alcock a happy 39th wedding anniversary, All the best to you both.

The Les Ransom shield was awarded to Pete Robson at the last meeting and as he was the last nameplate. As he got to keep the shield, Pete replaced it with another nice presentation piece, Thank you, Pete.

Two birthdays this month Kevin Blacker's 60th and Pete Robson 76 happy birthday to you both.

Welfare:

We all would like to wish Gaz Coe and Jacqui all the best in Spain as they have had to put their plans on hold for a while due to health problems. We hope everything goes well so they can get back on track and Jacqui has a speedy recovery.

John Harrison that Wiley old sniper is feeling better after coming off a trial which involved a lot of Chemo. We wish him well and hope things start getting better for him soon.

Update on Arthur Stimson, he is recovering nicely from a heart valve infection and hopes to make the July meeting, we look forward to seeing him back then.

Any other business:

Bus stop winner:

Chris Shillito (totally rigged)

Next meeting:

Will be on the 4th July 2025 at Minerva Inn Public House

With no more to discuss the 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 & 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.