



299 ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the AEA, Charity No: 1009201

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 association.

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

Date: 1st April 2016

Members Present: D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, D. Harvey, D. Hines, S. Hoyle, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, A. Kitching, C. Lickiss, J. Mace, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, C. Shillito, P. Sims, L. Smith, C. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock, D. Woollas.

Apology to **Syd Hoyle** who was present at the last meeting but was accidentally omitted from the members present list.

Apologies: M. Maddison, P. Robinson, Mike. Tindle, F. Gray, D. French, G. Beaumont, J. Brooks, J. Cherry, J. Duffy, C. Duggan, R. Gill, A. Grimes, C. Henrickson, D. Ideson, K. Russell, R. Swatman, B. Steele, C. Woodward.

Guests: **Colin Woodward's** children; **Elaine & Jane** attended this meeting along with their partner's; **Gary & Darren** and gave a comprehensive account on "**Woody's**" health issues and for this they were thanked. **Woody** is still very poorly but continues to be interested in the association. We as a group have offered our services in meeting any of the family or **Colin's** needs, and our prayers go out to them.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The acting Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting by thanking everybody for making the effort in producing a good turn out yet again.

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

Proposed by – **F. Pougher**

Seconded by – **P. Robson**

Treasure's Report: **Martin** brought everybody up to date with our finances which remain in a healthy state, but stressed the point that all Arnhem deposits are due, it's the only sure way of securing a place for this year's trip.

Correspondence:

Dave Hinds posted the following on the message board:

I have been informed of the passing OF ex Hull City PS 534 **John William Richardson**. **John** retired around 1983, I subsequently found this in the HDM.

"RICHARDSON John Passed away peacefully on 14th March 2016 aged 87 years surrounded by his family. Loving husband of **Freda**, much loved dad to **David and Gillian** and a loving grandad. Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends. Funeral Service to be held on Tuesday 29th March 2016, 14.00hrs at the Chanterlands Avenue Crematorium (Small Chapel). Family flowers only please, but donations in **John's** memory may be left at the service"

I believe **John** was a member of 299 from 1949 to 1953, Sapper 22236032, leaving to join Hull City Police.

I wish to thank the men who came forward to represent this association at John's Funeral, his family appreciated our presence. John received our monthly minutes and always kept abreast of things, old age and infirmity kept him away from the meetings. John is probably the last of his 299 generation RIP.

GSM 1965 Aden for the TA

John Donaldson from the Scottish Branch of the AEA sent me the minutes of their last meeting which revealed a disappointing response to the e-petition regarding the above struggle. At the time of receiving, only 210 people had bothered to offer their support, with at least 10,000 needed to stand a chance of a hearing in the House of Commons, therefore can I urge you all to start badgering everybody you know who possesses an e-mail address, granny, aunt's & uncles, etc. You have to remember, this issue is not common knowledge amongst the general public, it is up to you lot, (131 Vets), to do the broadcasting. Many Aden Vets do not own a computer but this should not stop any of them using friends and family in correcting this gross injustice by clicking on to this link and filling in the form.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/114410>

John received a letter from **The Right Honourable Earl Howe PC** regarding his letter to **Lord Dannatt**. This letter once again related to individual bravery awards as opposed to the GSM with South Arabia clasp for all who were in Aden at this time. **John** has replied to **Lord Howe** reminding him of the following:

"Regular and Reserve Forces are entitled to the same awards if they are involved in the same conflict at the same time"

Thank you card from the Ideson family was read out and passed around thanking you lads for the flowers and good wishes sent to them on the birth of their baby boy, Sebastian, the Secretary had to apologise because this had been overlooked at the previous meeting.

Social Calendar: An Evening of Clairvoyance with Lesley Moreno was attended by members and friends from this association on the 23rd March at the Reception Room in Hull Guild Hall, with the profits going to the Lord Mayors Charity Fund. We now have some ex Commando/Paratroopers looking towards the afterlife upon receiving messages from the other side.

Syd Hoyle's raffle for the Hull Branch PRA netted an embarrassing amount of prizes for this association, they ranged from a 48 inch TV to a shark bottle opener, and this same bottle opener was then auctioned amongst the meeting and fetched £10 for the coffers. The raffle itself netted almost £500 for good causes and that's a well done all round.

Chairman's Comments:

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The membership of this association consists of men who are, or have at some time, served with 299. It also has a considerable number of associate members consisting of family and friends of 299, these people are very much valued and essential for the general well-being of this association and are entitled and encouraged in playing a full and active part in all aspects in the running of this association. They enjoy full voting rights on any matters other than a constitutional issue, such as the voting in of a new committee member, they also have the right to wear a blazer displaying the association badge if they want, nothing is compulsory, 299 Association is honoured that so many people wish to be associated with us, our door is open to all.

Matters arising:

The new rugby shirts bearing the association motif are now ready for collection from the Chairman at £25 each.

Tony Costello made some association fridge magnets to be sold at the meeting to help bolster our funds, went like "hot cakes" or magnets even, many thanks TC.

Simbo sent two "Bus Stops" round at the meeting and the winners were **Tony Costello** and **Neil Cooper**.

Simbo has agreed to research and act as our representative for the CESA organization, (Combined ex Service's Association), he will keep us informed.

Items from members:

Contributions from **Maj Chris Wilcock**

"Co 23 Parachute Regiment Royal Engineers is in line to be the MA to the Prime Minister.

OC 299 Para Squadron **Maj Brad Hardwick** will hand over to **Maj Si Farmer** on 25th April 2016, 299 Association are encouraged to send him a letter of introduction and invite him to a meeting.

On Saturday 2nd April 2016 299 Para Sqn. are hosting a media presentation at SHQ to present long service medals and bars. The medals will be presented by **Col (retd) John Compton** whose son, **Alan** commanded 299 Tp. Medal recipients include **SSgt Carl Ham** and **Sgt Neil Busby** both from 299 1 Tp.

RSM Marc Dorkins is leaving the Regular Army after 24 years and will continue to serve in the new national troop with 299.

AEA dinner 2017: **Maj Chris Wilcock** will write to CO 23 to formally request permission to liaise direct with 299 Para Sqn. to provide support and assistance with the running of this event.

Capt. Olaf Dudley has contacted **Maj Chris Wilcock** to say how pleased that he is with the outstanding show of support from 299 association towards the renaming ceremony of Kingsbury TAC, it promises to be a good night and green and maroon will be welcome in equal measures"

Message from Craig Gadd and I reproduce:

"The British Limbless Ex Service Mens Association (Blesma) is a charity I hold close to my heart as they were one of the first charities to look after me, and really are a great charity, looking after limbless veterans and widows from the first World War to present since 1932. Like I said, I have done various expeditions/trips with Blesma and this will my first time I have done any sponsorship for them, hopefully with a lot more in the future to give something back, I'm also a Volunteer Welfare Representative looking after veteran members in and around the Hull area, so I feel I already try and give a little back, therefore I will be taking part in the Fall for the Fallen as I will have just qualified as an accelerated free fall parachutist, meaning I can jump solo, but like I said any can get involved by jumping tandem, they just need to get a medical form signed from the doc. I know some of the "old" boys have free fallen before, but I'm guessing their licences will be well out of date, therefore would have to jump tandem.

I have copied a couple of links for you to look at and I'll send you the e-mail documents sent to me. The first one is just the Blesma sight, but I have copied the link taking you straight to the information on the Fall for the Fallen for anyone interested in doing it for themselves, if not, I would very grateful if anyone would like to sponsor me to jump, it's a minimum of £400 in sponsorship but would really like to raise a lot more"

<https://blesma.org>

<https://blesma.org/support-us/fundraising-events/extreme-events/fall-for-the-fallen/>

For any more information contact Gaddy on 07974086591 or Gaz Coe on 01757 268188.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: AGM/OGM, to be held at the “Minerva” on Corporation Pier, Hull at 20.00hrs on Friday 6th May 2016.

IMPORTANT:

The Chairman reminded the meeting that all committee places will become vacant at the next meeting, (AGM), therefore if you are interested in standing for a job please make your intensions known in writing to the Secretary at least 21days before the AGM, nothing will be accepted after this date. Thank you.

IF YOU CAN ONLY ATTEND ONE MEETING IN THE YEAR THIS IS THE ONE TO CHOOSE, NOT ONLY DO YOU GET A CHANCE TO KICK OUT THE OLD COMMITTEE THERE IS A RUMOUR GOING AROUND THAT PEOPLE FROM WAY BACK WILL BE MAKING AN APPERANCE, WILL PROBABLY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE IN EVER MEETING THEM AGAIN. A GROUP PHOTO IS PLANNED THEREFORE BLAZERS IF POSSIBLE, BUT JUST GET YOUR SELF THERE, THAT’S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

Dates for your diary:

Renaming of Kingsbury Barracks: Tuesday 12th April 2016, to be renamed as the “Lonergan Lines” in memory of SSM Lonergan killed in action whilst attending camp at Al Milah, Aden in 1965.

Timings: 13.30 at the Hull Truck Theatre, Ferensway. Dress: Blazers, berets including decorations to be worn at the parade, Sleeping Bags, please be on time its going to be a tight schedule.

N/B: There are 16 definites already wanting to attend this function, there is no restriction on the numbers, people are prepared to use their own cars, therefore if you’re interested let the committee know ASAP. It will be an overnight stay!

Normandy Trip: 14th – 19th April 2016, two points of pick up only; Bikliners depot at Newport at 9.30hrs and 10.30hrs at The Ship Inn, Dunswell, cars can be left free of charge at both places.

The Lord Mayors Grand Charity Ball at the Guildhall on the 15th April 2016, tickets now available at £40 p/p, see the committee for further details.

The “Norland” Service at Holy Trinity 17th April 2016 at 14.00hrs, for further details see **Kitch or Simbo.**

The Hardwick Hall annual parade Sunday 15th May 2016, let the committee know if you are interested.

Airborne Forces Day (Northern) at Eden Camp on Saturday 16th July. Free entry when wearing a maroon beret.

Arnhem Pilgrimage: 15th – 19th September 2016. Your £50 deposits are the only way of ensuring a place on this trip, and are now needed.

AEA Reunion/AGM 2016. The Royal Court Hotel, Keresley, Coventry. Friday 14th October – Monday 17th October. Booking forms can be obtained from the Secretary and will also be included in the next edition of the AEA Journal.

Remembrance Sunday: 13th November 2016.

