



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: Friday 6th April 2018 at the Minerva

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, A. Foster, D. French, C. Gadd, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, A. Lee, K. Millington, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, K. Saddington, C. Shillito, P. Sims, B. Steele, A. Stimpson, M. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon.

Apologies: F. Gray, M. Holdsworth, J. Mace, J. Duffy, G. Beaumont, M. Maddison, S. Saxby, D. Harvey, D. Hines, C. Wilcock, R. Swatman, C. Duggan, L. Smith, O. Nelson-Girtchen, G. Newton, R. Franklin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting.

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

Proposed by – **W. Drayton**

Seconded by – **A. Irwin**

Treasure's Report:

Martin gave a comprehensive breakdown of our funds which continue to look healthy and reminded the meeting that the full payment for the Arnhem trip is due by the next meeting, (AGM) 4th May. He welcomed the £80 injection to the funds through the efforts of **Tony Kitching's** clay pigeon shoot, thanking all who took part, and also went on to thank **Glenn Ratten** for standing in as acting Treasurer whilst he was on holiday for the Feb. meeting.

Correspondence: relevant incoming over the previous month.

Mick Beardshaw, message bd. 11/3/2018. Just to say a big thank you to **Tony Kitch** for a great day, (at the clay shoot), **me & Ben** enjoyed it, but next time make them targets bigger!

Tony Kitch, message bd 12/3/2018. **Mick & Ben** thanks for your email, I will try and get some dustbin lids for you next time, ha, ha, thanks to all who came, **Kitch**.

Dave Rutter (AEA Journal editor & Secretary of the Aldershot branch), email sent 17/3/2018.

The Chatham branch committee are keen to get the reunion booking forms out as early as possible – despite the fact copies of these will be enclosed in the June 2018 AEA Journal. Please note – **I AM NOT** the contact for any further information or distribution of booking forms. Should you or your members have any queries please direct them to **Tim Van Der Kraan**, Mb: 07718373547, or one of the Chatham branch committee members.

There are two separate forms to complete – one for the accommodation (send to the hotel) and one regarding the Gala Dinner (send to **Tim VDK**). There is also a suggested alternative list of hotels that your members may wish to consider.

(N/B: I will attach the forms at the end of these minutes for those of you who are interested)

Who said winter was over – it's snowing like mad here in Aldershot.

All the best for now.

Dave (general dog's body).

Gaz Coe, Message Bd. 4/4/2018. Gents; meeting night at the Minerva this Friday, 6th April, hope you can make it. Not much time left for getting your Arnhem money in.

Sad news from Birmingham, **Chris Green** has lost his son, our condolences have been sent.

Terry Cunningham, Message Bd, 4/4/2018. (News from Doncaster). Hi lads, here is the latest from **Nev. Smales**, he has seen his surgeon again, but is no further along. He is now in a stable condition and more or less back to normal, so his surgeon has taken him off the priority list, so is now waiting for the backlog and priority list to go down before it's his turn to get the gall stones removed, unless he has a relapse which hopefully never happens.

Bud Oldfield is back to scratch and has recently been on holiday in Weymouth where he uncouped 5 foot snow drifts, but still enjoyed the holiday. Both send their good wishes to 299. **Terry**.

Members of 299, Message Bd. 5/4/2018. Today is the 96th birthday of that well respected Arnhem Veteran, friend to all, and valued member of this association **LES RANSOM**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LES FROM EVERYBODY AT 299.

Social Calendar:

It's a big thank you to **Tony Kitch** for organising and running, (single-handedly), the Clay Pigeon Shoot at Bygott Wood on Saturday 10th March, the weather eventually came good and 16 participants, including friends & families enjoyed the experience with **Art. Stimpson** taking the first timers trophy and young **Jim Story** winner of the seasoned vets, thanks to **John Shillito** graciously stepping aside after winning it last year. Some of these old paratroopers & commandos got knocked into the shade by younger members of their respective families but age waits for no man, this was observed with our Arnhem vet **Les Ransom** who failed to see any of the clays fired from their traps, never mind the shooting of them, we even painted swastikas on them, but the old "mince pies" are not what they were, and he passed it off jokingly by declaring that "it makes a change not to have them shooting back at him"

After the shoot it was back to the Bay Horse, Cherry Burton, where the landlord filled a table with hot dogs and chips which went down well, (especially with all the grand kids), as well as a few pints. **Tony** put a lot of work into this activity and somehow managed to make a profit, this was never the intention, but never the less a welcome addition to our coffers, a very pleasant day, enjoyed by all, and we thank **Tony** again.

N/B: the profit from this shoot was made up from a small cartridge over payment p/p, and a generous donation from the Director of the shoot: Mr Ian Patterson. A letter of thanks will be sent to him and this said letter was passed around the meeting for all to sign. A grand total of £80 for our funds.

Chairman's Comments:

Chris was quick to thank those from this association who represented us all at the Hull Minster on Sunday 4th March by attending the 50th anniversary service of Hull's Triple Trawler Tragedy of 1968, 10 answered **Bri Bilton's** call to Church, many people taking part in what was a very moving service, delivered to a full Church of Hull people that will never forget it's loss, 'so many families still suffering to this present day'

This association's website provider is a company called Giacom World Networks Ltd which was under the directorship of **Nick Marshall**, (point of contact through **Craig Gadd**). We have had no problems other than we have never had an invoice for their services over the past few years since we asked for their help, a few meetings ago the Secretary asked you all for suggestions, and it was agreed to buy **Nick** a bottle of the 'finest' as a thank you for his generosity, this has been done as a gift from you all. Since then it has come to light that **Nick** has just left the company and we may have inadvertently opened 'Pandora's Box' will keep you in the picture.

The next meeting is the AGM, therefore as your Chairman I am asking for maximum effort in attending this one, **Tony Foster** is in charge of the group photo, also if you want anything putting on the agenda please make it known to any of the committee members well before the meeting, preferably in writing. It also means that all committee positions will become vacant and are up for grabs, therefore if you want to sling your hat in the ring please let the Secretary know ASAP. Dress for the AGM photo shoot is 299 rugby shirts if you have one, no berets, and please try and get to the Minerva a little early to accommodate all this.

Arnhem Pilgrimage: this meeting brings the payment deadline for the trip to just 4 weeks away, (next meeting), the 4th May, we make this the cut-off point because from May – June this association has to start paying out monies to hotel, ferries & bus, anybody wishing to pull off the trip before the deadline may do so without loss of deposit. Last year immigration insisted on: **Dates of Birth & Passport Numbers**, sorry about this, if you could get them to the Treasurer or the Secretary, some of you will have given them last year, in this case I'm just checking on how many lied about their DoB first time round, it has happened before, vanity is a terrible thing! Itinerary & timings to follow later in the year.

N/B: Please note without full payment for this trip by the next meeting names will have to be struck off.

Arnhem 2019: **Chris** posed the problem of booking early to avoid disappointment for the 75th anniversary and asked the meeting for permission to do so, some money would have to be laid out, especially to secure ferry cabins and he knows this is not the concern of all members, but permission would be needed in spending association funds. Permission to do so was proposed by **P. Sims** and seconded by **P. Robson**, with the vote for being unanimous. The association is not taking names as yet for 2019 but this is something for you all to ponder.

Presentations: the Chairman asked the meeting for a degree of financial dispensation when considering presentations and awards within this association, because these matters cannot be discussed openly there will always be a problem with gaining majority consent from all the members, and he is asking for some freedom as the Chairman in making these decisions by also including the serving committee in it all. This has to be a matter of trust, and all can be held to account if mismanagement of association funds is suspected by using the order of the 'boot'.

Permission for dispensation was proposed by **A. Weldon** and seconded by **P. Robson**, with the vote for being unanimous.

Wreaths: The Chairman will be ordering 3 association wreaths from the Hull branch of the Royal British Legion

Matters arising: FOR ANYBODY THINKING OF JOINING 299 ASSOCIATION

There are no subs to pay or registration fees, we don't have many rules, usually a show of hands from the lads is all that is needed, but we do insist on good humour, along with total honesty and respect for each other which goes without saying for most 299 men, we are open to any man who served with 299, red or green, it makes no difference, we are all colour blind, also rank achieved whilst serving or length of service counts for nothing in this association, every man is equally important, we also place great value on anybody wishing to be an associate member, the committee carries no authority at all, and is voted in every year by the FULL members at the AGM in May, we are just a bunch of likeminded blokes who happened to have served in the best unit in the British Army, and we enjoy each other's company.

N/B: FULL MEMBERS ARE MEN THAT ACTUALLY SERVED WITH 299.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY: there was a healthy call for this from the floor, and it will be discussed; for or against at the next meeting (AGM) 4th May when the protagonists have done their costings, sorted out the venue and decided who is going to organise it. This can then be put to the membership for their approval.

Items from members: PARLIMENTARIAN VOULUNTEERS: required this spring, a car full needed, talk to the Secretary. TBC.

Simbo's bus Stop: one winner this month: Kev. Saddy

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting is our AGM/OGM: to be held at the Minerva on Friday the 4th May 2018 at 20.00hrs.

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

Dates for your diary:

THE FALKLAND & NORLAND SERVICE AND PARADE will take place on Sunday 29th April 2018 at the Hull Minster, (Holy Trinity), Market Place, Hull, HU11 1RR. Muster at 13.00hrs (Kingston) for parade at 14.00hrs, after the service a march through the city centre towards the Maritime Museum, (15mins), for a wreath laying ceremony, then return to the Minster for refreshments, all welcome. Standard will be paraded. Dress: Blazers, Berets and Decorations.

AIRBORNE FORCES REMEMBRANCE DAY (Northern), Saturday 14th July 2018. Eden Camp, Near Malton. A reunion, parade and commemorative service is to be held for all Airborne Forces. Parade at 11.00hrs, free entry for all wearing a maroon beret and parade participants.

YORKSHIRE AIR MUSEUM MEMORIAL DAY: 2ND Sept. 2018, details TBC, remember: Centenary year for the RAF, will be a big occasion this year, a good turn out from this association would do this association no harm at all!

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2018. THURSDAY NIGHT 20th Sept (overnight ferry) ----- MONDAY morning after overnight ferry Sept.24th 2018
Details to follow.

CROMWELL LOCK MEMORIAL SERVICE, (at the lock), SUNDAY 30TH SEPT. 2018. Details to follow.

29TH ANNUAL AEA GALA DINNER – SATURDAY 13TH October 2018. To be held at the King Charles Hotel, Brompton Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5QT. (Chatham Branch of the AEA), Booking forms attached to April's minutes.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11TH NOV. 2018, details to follow

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, cls299@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01482 806690, Mb: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman: Bill Drayton, dorridrayton@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01482 376259,

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

Treasurer: Martin Tindle, martinrontindle@hotmail.com Tel: 01482 653618, Mb: 07500264558.

Web Master: Dave Hines, davehine2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 860981, Mb: 07821698522.

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



Airborne Engineers Association
29th Annual Reunion Gala Dinner – Saturday 13th October 2018
At the King Charles Hotel, Brompton Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5QT

Information Required to Assist the AEA Chatham Branch Planning Team

Name:

Address:

.....
.....

.....Post Code: E-Mail:
.....

Home Phone No: Mobile No:
.....

Arrival Date: Departure Date:
.....

AEA Membership No: AEA Branch:
.....

Unit: From: To:
.....

Reunion Gala Dinner - Full Names of AEA Members/Guests Attending (Delete as Appropriate*)

1. AEA Member/Guest Name:

2. AEA Member/Guest Name:

3. AEA Member/Guest Name:

4. AEA Member/Guest Name:

5. AEA Member/Guest Name:

6. AEA Member/Guest Name:

Tables: Tables at the Reunion Gala Dinner are to be arranged to seat **eight (8)** persons.

I/We: Would like to be seated with:

.....

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.....

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(Every effort will be made to accommodate your seating requirements)

Raffle: A Raffle will be held during the Reunion Gala Dinner and it would be very much appreciated if those attending the Dinner would bring an appropriate prize (**wrapped**). Your raffle prizes can be handed over to Mick Fisher on the morning of the AGM Meeting.

Visit to Royal Engineers Museum: Following the AGM it is intended to have an organised visit to the Royal Engineers Museum. Please indicate if you like to be included in the visit.

- **YES/NO & No(s) Attending:**

Return of Additional Information Sheet: Once completed please return it to me at the address below but by **No later than Friday 31st August 2018.**

Mr. Tim van der Kraan

55, Heritage Road, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent, ME5 7SQ

Home: 01634 671 822 Mobile: 07718 373 547 E-Mail:

timothy_vanderkraan@yahoo.co.uk

**PLEASE BOOK EARLY AS IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ACCOMMODATION
AND SEATING AT THE GALA DINNER WILL BE AT A PREMIUM**

29th AEA AGM & Reunion Gala Dinner Hotel Booking Form
Friday 12th – Sunday 14th October 2018

Full Name

.....

Home Address

.....

..... Post code Telephone No
.....

E Mail Address: Mobile No
.....

Please reserve me the following accommodation (please tick):

Thursday* ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Sunday ☐ Monday* ☐

Double ☐ Twin (2 single Beds) ☐ Single ☐ Triple (3 single beds) ☐

Meal **ONLY** without accommodation Friday ☐ Sunday ☐ @ £18 per person per night
(excluding Saturday)

3 Nights (Friday 12th October – Sunday 14th October) £168.00 per person, B&B **inc** 4 Course
Meal Saturday

2 Nights (Friday 12th/Saturday 13th **or** Sunday 14th) £140.00 per person, B&B **inc** 4 Course Meal
Saturday

Saturday Night Only

1-Night B&B and 4 Course Dinner £75.00 per person

Reunion Gala Dinner **ONLY** Saturday 13th October 2018; Cost £35.00 per person
(Reunion Dinner includes 2 glasses of wine and a glass of port per person)

All prices above are including Dinner Each Night - EXTRA NIGHTS* are B&B ONLY.

**EXTRA NIGHTS* required @ £60.00 per Single & £70.00 per Double/Twin Room per night
B&B ONLY.**

FULL NAMES of Reunion Guests – indicate whether for accommodation and/or dinner:

No. 1

.....
.

No. 2

.....
.

(continue overleaf as required if more than 2)

- If you, or your guests, have any special dietary requirements such as diabetic, coeliac, etc.
please state here:

.....
.....

- There is a lift to all floors; if you, or your guests, have any special needs or requests please
state below:

.....
....

If you are **unable to attend** the reunion you must notify the Hotel no **later than Wednesday 10th October 2018** to be eligible for a refund.

For your ease, all rooms have been reserved for you and it is not necessary to telephone the hotel direct.

Please enclose a deposit by cheque Payable to: **The King Charles Hotel** for **£30 per person** to secure your booking, along with your **Booking Form** no later than **Friday 31st August 2018** to:

Reservations Department

The King Charles Hotel

Brompton Road

Gillingham

Kent ME7 5QT Tel. 01634 830303 (for cancellations and final payments only please)

An invoice for the remaining account balance will be detailed on your confirmation letter and is due for payment in full by the 28th September 2018 – this may be made by telephone using a Credit/Debit Card or BACS if you prefer.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMODATION & HOTELS
AND DISTANCE FROM THE KING CHARLES HOTEL

Please find below a list of Additional Accommodation and Hotels.

1. Premier Inn (Chatham/Gillingham) (1.2miles)

Victory Pier Hotel

Blake Avenue

Gillingham

Kent

ME7 1GB

Tel: 0871 527 9510

2. Ship and Trade (Nr. Chatham Dockyard) (1.2miles)

Maritime Way

Chatham Maritime

Chatham

Kent

ME4 3ER

Tel: 01634 895 200

3. Chatham Maritime Travel Lodge (Nr, Chatham Dockyard) (1.3miles)

Western Avenue

Chatham Historic Dockyard

Chatham

Kent

ME4 4NT

Tel: 0203 195 4114 Or 0203 559 1878
Central Reservations: 0871 984 8484

4. St George Hotel (2.1miles)
8, New Road Avenue
Chatham
Kent
ME4 6BB
Tel: 01634 841 012

5. Premier Inn (2.4miles)
Will Adams Way
Gillingham
Kent
ME8 6BY
Tel: 0871 527 8416