



299 ASSOCIATION

Charity No: 1009201

Date: 1st August 2014

Members Present: N.Arksey, M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, W. Drayton, R. Franklin, J. Duffy, D. Harvey, C. Henrickson, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, J. Mace, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Sims, J.C.Thompson, C. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock, C. Woodward.

Apologies: P. Robinson, W. Draper, C. Shillito, S. Oliver, T. Cunningham, J. Brooks, J. Thompson, C. Gadd, J. Harrison, P. Robson, K. Saddington, Mart. Tindle, S. Hoyle, M. Maddison.

Guests: B. Young

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The chairman welcomed all present then opened the meeting.

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

Proposed by – A. Kitching.

Seconded by – F. Pougher.

Treasure's Report: Martin was unable to attend, but reports that The Arnhem Pilgrimage is now fully booked up, those requesting extras on the ferry will have to wait until nearer the trip to see what's available.

Correspondence:

Re – web site; Gary Newton, the previous site manager for this association handed over the software containing our web site to Martin Tindle on the 5th July 2014. A letter of thanks has been sent to Gary by the Secretary on behalf of all members. A new web manager will now be needed, (Volunteers).

A Hull event; The Bell and Battle Honours of the Norland are to be permanently displayed within **Holy Trinity Church, Hull**. This Hull car ferry was scrapped a few years ago. The Norland carried 2 Para Group and 2 Troop 9 Para Sqn down to the Falklands during 1982. Several members, including myself feel we, as a predominantly Hull association should make every effort to support this event by our presence at this service of internment, **therefore I'm asking all members**, if at all possible, to try and make a little time to support, not only the ships memory, but the men that sailed into battle with her, with some not coming back, but all of them our fellow brothers in arms. The Parachute Regiment Band will be in attendance and the collection will be shared between the upkeep of the Bell and the

Afghanistan Trust. This service will be followed by light refreshments served in the South choir aisle of the Church. This is a chance to renew old friendships.

The service will take place at 1400hrs on Sunday 10th August, Standards please be there for 1330hrs.

299 men meet at 1330hrs **outside** "The Bonny Boat" public house at the latest. (Old Market Square).
Dress; Berets, Ties and Medals.

Arnhem Memorial Day; Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire. September 6th 2014

I have now received tickets for 10 free places to attend the above, the places will go on a first come basis, this will be a full day of events and we intend to use and fill our own cars to share the fuel costs.

The day's events are as follows:

9.30am - Petwood Hotel, coffee available.

10.15am - Parade muster.

10.30am - Parade to St. Peter's Church, (BBMF fly past).

11.00am - Church service.

11.30am - Wreath laying at the memorial stone in the grounds of the museum.

12.15pm - Lunch.

2.30pm - The Kinema in the Woods "Down Memory Lane"

Jubilee Park - 1940's live music with afternoon teas.

Woodhall Spa was the training base for the 1st Air Landing Brigade during 1944. The KOSB Regiment and Sth Staffordshire Regiment were based in camps around the village and in requisitioned houses. Of the 2320 men who left Woodhall Spa for Arnhem, only 471 returned after 9 days of fierce fighting. It is appropriate therefore that this village has raised funds for a memorial and pays its respects annually. It is therefore an honour for this association to be invited to take part in these proceedings. Meeting place and timings to be arranged by agreement at a later date.

Cleethorpes Air Show: A letter of thanks has been sent to Brian Dingley the Chairman of the Grimsby & Cleethorpes PRA, for the kindness shown to all 299 men attending the proceedings. We congratulated him on a marvellous and successful show. Letter read out.

Chairman's Comments:

Our Chairman Bill Drayton gave a run down on the weekends events at the Cleethorpes Air Show, 26/27 July 2014. Our Arnhem veteran Les Ransom and Bill had been invited to Cleethorpes for this event by the Grimsby & Cleethorpes PRA, with Les been named as a guest of honour. This kind gesture extended to two nights' accommodation for them both, paid for by the G&C PRA.

This year's air show turned out to be the biggest and best to date, with the theme commemorating the important milestone of 2014, marking 100 years since the outbreak of World War 1. The many displays included two WW 1 replica aeroplanes, The Red Arrows, The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and The Red Devils free fall team, these were just a few of the highlights enjoyed by thousands, in the best weather we have seen for years.

This association had been invited to parade along with others, including Standards, as a welcome party for the RD freefall team at the DZ. Upon landing the freefall team was presented to the guests of

honour; Les Ransom ex 1st Airborne Division and Arnhem Veteran and Major General David S.Joliffe CB, FRCP. Chief Army Medical Officer (Retired). He served as RMO 2 Para in Northern Ireland, and was a Consultant Physician for the battle field hospital in the Falklands. He took a RBL pilgrimage to India, Nepal and Kohima in late 2013, a very busy man possessing no airs or graces.

It was quite noticeable that Les left a few of the RD display team in fits of laughter, something along the lines of "did I jump with your grandfather out of a Whitley" Bill went on to thank the 299 men who took part in what turned out to be a very enjoyable weekend..



Courtesy of G. Ratten

Cleethorpes Air Show 2014

L->R Bill Drayton

Les Ransom

Col Woodward

Tony Irwin

Glenn Ratten

Matters arising:

The voting rights of 299 honorary members, (any member who never served in 299), was raised again and discussed. It was concluded that these men form an integral part of this association and are fundamental in the structure and the running of it. Their contributions and friendships have become essential over the years and it is only right that they should have an equal say on most matters.

The membership was faced with 3 options for 299 honorary members;

- a) No votes allowed what so ever.
- b) Voting allowed on everything.
- c) Voting allowed on domestic issues only, not allowed votes on constitutional matters.

The vote was unanimous for voting on domestic issues only. (c).

N/B the above has nothing to do with any voting rights within the AEA, this is 299 only.

Archives: Tony Irwin has made contact with the family of the late Stan Robinson (WO 2) and is now in the process of hopefully copying his source of material for our archives.

Tony went on to highlight "The Dhow" a publication for the Aden Vets, the latest edition gives an account of 131 Para RE actions during 1965.

Sqn news: The new OC for 299 Squadron is **Major Brad Harwick**, he is a regular soldier and this is a full time post covering the next 2yrs. He will be operating out of Wakefield; he replaces our own Chris Wilcock, we wish them both well in their new roles.

Arnhem T shirts: "Simbo" has had some one print our own personalised shirts for Arnhem; he did a cat walk and brought the house down, numbers have been taken and orders are to be placed, **therefore if you want the 299 shirt you only have a few days to get in touch with Paul.**

Congratulations: Tony Weldon has just completed the 30Km Nijmegen march for the twelfth time, not bad going for an old timer, he's taking on "The Great North Run" in a few weeks time and has also won the allotment of the year; it was the **runner** beans that did the trick. Well done "Weldo"

Spare a thought: One or two of our friends are known to be struggling with health issues at the moment, we know who they are and our thoughts and pray's go to them.

Good to see Ray Franklin almost back to fighting form after his recent operation.

Chris Coe sends her thanks to the lad's for the beautiful bouquets' of flowers.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEXT MEETING HAS HAD TO BE CHANGED BECAUSE OF A MUSIC FESTIVAL.

Next Meeting: 29th August 2014, at the Minerva 20.00hrs, Cooperation Pier, Hull

Dates for your diary:

MV Norland – Bell and Battle Honours Service, Holy Trinity Church, 1400hrs on Sunday 10th August 2014.

Arnhem Memorial Day:

Arnhem 70th Commemoration at Woodhall Spa: 6th September 2014, (full day)

Forces Memorial Day: Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, Nr. York.
Sunday 7th September 2014.

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2014

The 6 day option 16/9/2014 – 22/9/2014

The 4 day option 18/9/2014 – 22/9/2014

Remembrance Sunday: 9th November 2014