



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 associations.

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

Date: Friday 2nd August 2019 at the Ship Inn, Dunswell. Near Beverley.

Members Present: B. Bilton, K. Blacker, G. Coe, T. Cunningham, A. Foster, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, A. Green, M. Hall, C. Ham, D. Hines, A. Homan, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, A. Kitching, M. Lawrence, J. Mace, R. Meachen, J. Palmer, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, M. Sadler, S. Saxby, P. Sims, A. Stimpson, D. Meekin, M. Tindle, T. Walker, A. Weldon, Lt Col Chris Wilcocks, P. Wolstenholme.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, C. Shillito, M. Beardshaw, J. Duffy, C. Duggan, B. Steele, D. French, L. Smith, R. Gill, S. Briggs, R. Swatman, G. Beaumont, W. Drayton, J. Thompson, C. Walker, D. Woollas, M. Maddison, N. Cooper.

Guests: Linda Robson, Ann Stimpson, Pauline Meekin, Kenny Blain, Mohamad Ali, (not the greatest ever).

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Secretary / stand-in Chairman **Gary Coe** welcomed all present with a special acknowledgment to our friends and guests, he then opened the meeting by offering the Chairman's apology as he is away on his "Jollies" and we wish him well. The acting Chairman gave the association's thanks to **Johnno Palmer** for yet again allowing the use of his Pub for this meeting and providing a magnificent buffet for all to enjoy, he went on to explain that the Minerva is unavailable due to an annual music festival held in and around Nelson Street at this time of the year.

N/B: The Humber Street "Sesh" at the Old Fruit Market - 30000 people are expected to this 2 day event which provides a platform for emerging musicians. This is the reason the Minerva is not available to us this evening.

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

Proposed by – **Paul Sims**

Seconded by – **Frank Pougher**

Treasure's Report:

Glenn brought the meeting up to date with the finances, and all is well, invoices for this year's Arnhem trip are now paid, both in the UK and over in Holland. He reminded the meeting that the book is already open for Arnhem 2020, the usual rules apply; £50 deposit secures a place, and is refundable up until May 2020. One man has already paid for his place.

Relevant correspondence:

Lt Col (Retd) John Lee (President AEA), e-mail dated 8/7/2019.

Thanks for the very informative minutes and I was interested in some of the items. It was nice to read that **Eileen Robinson** attended the meeting and it shows the good spirit in 299 Association. Well done to yourself and **Tony Irwin** for tending the graves and remembering those who have departed. I remember **Stan Robinson** as SSM when he took over from **Ron Cox** who had a heart attack shortly after I joined 131, over 50 years ago!

Regarding **Cromwell lock**, as next year is the 45th Anniversary I am planning to hold a service on Sunday 27th September and will be contacting **Arn Andrews** soon regarding this, hope to see him at this years' service anyway to discuss this – I fully appreciate your comments about it clashing with Arnhem.

Please send on my best wishes to all members. Regards **John**.

This message was put on the message board by **Sgt Paul Robinson RAF** on 18/7/2019.

Well Gents, it's been a year on Saturday since my dad passed away (**Keith**) and it doesn't get any easier, I will be in the Duke of York (Skirlaugh) on Sat night for a couple of beers with mum if anyone fancies joining us.

Dave Staniforth e-mail dated 18/7/2019.

All the very best to you & all the lads. I have been reading what was put on about when the 131 Regiment were in Aden. I was up country when the camp was attacked & the 2 NCO's were killed, I had to drive back to the Royal Signals depot in the port to get confirmations of the attack and of the killed and wounded. I reported back to the brother in law of the SSM of 300 Sqn, he was most upset as the SSM was married to his sister.

N/B: Dave is an old sweat, served for years with 299, also the rest of his family had been a part of 299 since its conception in 1947, his father, also his uncle **Ted Inchbold ex 6th Division (founder member)**. **Dave** lives in Liverpool now and has just found the association, I am communicating with him on a regular basis, he's a mine of historic info with bags of photos which I'm sure will finish up on the 299 social media site.

Anybody wishing to join the 299 Facebook site (closed group) contact Chris Shillito (admin) on e-mail

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

UPDATE FROM SCOTLAND

General Service Medal (Aden), notes made after reading **John Donaldson's** piece in the Scottish Branch minutes of the AEA taken on 21/7/2019. Letters written to the Secretary of State for Defence have been answered by **Lord Howe** who has always **ILLEGALLY** resisted the awarding of the GSM to the men that were killed & wounded back in 1965, apparently, he's above the law and suffers no consequences' for his stance. This medal entitlement for these men took 53 years in the coming, these factor are going to be pointed out to the Leader of the House of Lords.

With a new minister in place for Defence, the parameter guide lines for time spent in operational theatre of war may well be reconsidered for the men of 131 Para Engineer Regiment as a special case in 1965. People knew at the time that reservist soldiers were being sent into a hostile operational area, these concerns were raised in the House of Commons prior to embarkation, and this factor is on the records for all to see.

Eamon Smyth e-mail dated 27/7/2019.

Sent photos produced by Applecross Photographic Studios, much improved legibility. Prints have been sent to 131 SHQ (along with original plaque), also the same sent to 299 Para Sqn RE, Calvert Lane FAO **Sgt Tom James**.

Tim Vanderkrann e-mail dated 27/7/2019

Sad news: the death of **Bill Perry** today in his care home, he was an AEA (Chatham Branch) member, serving as an Airborne Engineer 1946 – 1949. Details to follow.

Phone call from **Bud Oldfield** who has obtained his veteran's discount card thanks to 5 mins work on the computer by his grandson, and is already enjoying the benefits. The only problem he could envisage for ex Reservist's is proof of service...! Discharge documents are not normally issued to the reservists, but they still qualify, therefore confirmation of service will have to be requested from the relevant MoD administrations.

Social Calendar:

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2019

For those of you attending this trip you may want to consider being picked up at this pub **SHIP INN** in Dunswell at 16:00hrs on Thursday 19th Sept 2019. The owner and Land Lord **John Palmer** has yet again kindly offered this association permission to park cars on his property throughout the extended week end at no charge. The parking is totally safe and discrete in a security screened area.

The coach will rendezvous with those of you making your own way to the Riverside Terminal on King George Dock in Hull, (HU9 5PS) at 17:00hrs, no later please.

Acting Chairman's Comments: 2 events that need our support.

Allied Air Forces Memorial Day – Sunday 1st September 2019, Elvington, York.

Yet again this association has been asked to take part and support the above. The event will feature a Parade of Standards with veterans marching to the Service in the Memorial Hangar, containing the Halifax bomber, followed by the March Past, Sunset Ceremony and Salute. The Parade will be led by the Yorkshire Military Marching Band and Corps of Drums.

If the weather is on our side, this is a great day for the families, Battle of Britain memorial fly past plus the many aircraft exhibits on display. I have not received the tickets as yet therefore if we meet at the Air Field carpark for 11:00 hrs this will give us time to look around before we do our bit. I call for a good turnout for this parade as this Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington relies heavily upon voluntary support and our presence is always well received. Dress as for parade.

This event is taking place before our next meeting on the 6th Sept, therefore communication is a must, please watch the message board and talk to each other, the Stewards will let you pass because you are "parade participants" See you there.

The 44th Anniversary of the Disaster at Cromwell Weir

On Saturday 28th September 2019 it will be 44 years to the day since 10 men of 300 Troop, 131 Para Sqn RE drowned in a tragic accident in the Weir at Cromwell Lock on the River Trent. These men were taking part in the exercise "**TRENT CHASE**" a inter Troop navigational race down the river as it runs into the River Ouse.

Every year a service of Remembrance takes place during September close to the memorial at the Lock and this year, as on others, the date usually falls on the Arnhem week end when many ex 131 men are in Holland. A few 131 men decided that this year, because the 28th of the month falls on a Saturday they will hold their own service on the anniversary of the accident, they could never understand why the anniversary date was ignored, especially this year when it falls on a week end, allowing those members still working the chance to attend.

A tremendous amount of work by **Mike Holdsworth** has secured the services of the local clergy, **Canon Mark Adams** the Vicar of **St Giles** and the surrounding Parish of Cromwell has agreed to take the service on this occasion. We also have the full support of **Arnie Andrews** from the Newark PRA and I believe **John Lee (AEA President)** intends to make the service. The Birmingham branch of the AEA will be bringing a mini bus full of men and I'm appealing to you members to put this date in your diary for 299 to maximise our attendance.

We intend to debrief at the Ferry (Pub) in Muskham after the service. Final timings and travel arrangements will be sorted for the next meeting, remember we get back from Holland on the Monday for this service taking place on the following Saturday. This service is open to all those interested and again our support is needed.

Matters arising: Just being passed a card with the following message on it..!

A LITTLE PARTY NEVER KILLED NOBODY

This is an open invite to all 299 Association members for Christopher's 50th 1920's Jazz Party, (can you believe it?)

Chris Wilcock is having a do on Saturday 17th August at The Triton Inn, Brantingham, at 6:30pm – Midnight.

Dress is Formal or 1920's including Dancing Shoes.

Food is Hog roast or Vegan.

Music from the Black Sheikhs.

RSVP bestvetsarah@yahoo.co.uk Mb: 07980265890.

Items from members:

Tony Irwin along with the 299 Standard paraded at Eden Camp (Malton) on 13th July 2019 for "Airborne Forces Day" he picked up that Arnhem veteran **Les Ransom** on the way and they travelled up together, where they teamed up with **Charlie McColgan** (ex 9 Sqn) sporting a beard which "**Ben Gunn**" would be proud to wear.

Les was invited to lay wreaths with **Maj Gen Giles Hill, Assistant Chief of the General Staff & Deputy Colonel Commandant of the Parachute Regiment**. This was carried out whilst the piper played a lament to the fallen which made for a moving scenario.

This association thank **Tony & Les** for representing 299 yet again, your presence was noted with complementary feedback received from some of the highest of places.

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Simbos bus Stop: one winner this month, that popular Tony Irwin with `suspenders`

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: will be held on Friday 6th September 2019 at the Minerva, usual time.

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

Dates for your diary:

Allied Air Forces Memorial Day – 1st September 2019.

Service & Parade as previous years, details in the script

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2019. THURSDAY NIGHT 19TH Sept. for overnight crossing ----- MONDAY MORNING 23rd Sept. after overnight crossing, costings and availability talk to Glenn Ratten on: Tel: 01757 700016, Mb: 07795248328. Full details to follow.

44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROMWELL WIER DISASTER FALLS ON SARURDAY 28TH SEPT. 2019.
A short Service of remembrance will take place at the Lock on this day and we call for a maximum turnout, timings and transport will be given at the next meeting, Dress as for parade.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10TH NOV. 2019, muster 9:30hrs down Pease Street, Anlaby Road, Hull.
Dress for parade & service at the Cenotaph.

1 Troop 299 Squadron are parading in Hull this year and will be sharing the buffet at the Minerva with the association.

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: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Tel: 01757 700016, Mb: 07795248328.

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

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

WELFARE:

The veterans Hub & Forum, coordinator Callum Day for all your problems

Address: Goodwin Community Hub, Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 2LL, (opposite the `Tigers Lair`).

Tel: 01482 485958, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org

