



299 ASSOCIATION

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 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

This meeting is only possible because of the careful management from the staff at the Minerva.

Date: Friday 6th August 2021, 20:00hrs at the Minerva.

Members Present: A. Alcock, D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, D. French, C. Gadd, W. Holbrook, D. Ideson, M. Lawrence, J. Mace, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, F. Pougher, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Russell, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, B. Steele, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, T. Walker, A. Weldon, P. Wolstenholme, D. Woollas, N. Yates.

Apologies: F. Gray, A. Irwin, P. Robinson, M. Holdsworth, C. Duggan, J. Harrison, D. Harvey, M. Maddison, R. Swatman.

Guests: Pauline Meekin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened this well attended meeting by reciting the Exultation himself.

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

Proposed by – **F. Pougher.**

Seconded by – **J. Brooks and carried**

Treasure's Report: **Glenn Ratten** informed the meeting that the finances for this association are sound and all monies for the Normandy trip have been paid.

Correspondence: none

Social Calendar: THE BATTLE FIELDS OF NORMANDY trip postponed from 2019 because of Covid.

One month away from the departure date gents and unfortunately I cannot give you much more 'Gen' other than it is still on going, everybody is watching the dynamics between France & UK and I suppose everything depends on this factor alone, you will be contacted as soon as we know. The original list of names has diminished somewhat due to the uncertainty of the situation and I can only admire you guys for your 'stickability' **true 299ers**, the men down for this operation are;

Dave Barker, Gaz Coe, Mart Lawrence, Dave Woollas, Pete Wolstenholme, Glenn Ratten, Bob Meachen, Brad Steele, Paul Sims, Terry Walker, Neil Yates, Terry Cunningham, Mike Maddison.

Info so far;

We are staying at the CARLINE CAEN NORD (No contact number as yet)

11 Rue Professeur Joseph Rousselot, 14000 Caen, France.

Five twin rooms and one triple booked, I've been told it's got a great piano bar.! For those of you with a musical and harmonious disposition.

Pick up time 9:00hrs prompt on 10th Sept at The Ship Inn, Dunswell, Old Beverley Road HU6 0AJ, the landlord **Jonno** has a safe locked up area at the back of his pub, cars will be safe in here and costs nothing.

Really hope this trip goes ahead, what we lack in numbers we more than excel in quality, one stipulation, make sure you have a 299 Association Rugby shirt, if you haven't, beg, steal or borrow, might want to take your 'lid', any colour will do as long as it's not Royal Military Police, (any one can make a mistake).

N/B: the chances are we will all have to obtain certification of double 'Jabs' from the NHS, THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND IT COSTS NOTHING, (no certificate, and no travel). Two options for obtaining this;

Call 119 and answer the questioner, this will take about 20mins and you will receive your official certificate through the post within 5 – 14 working days, (the cardboard cut outs given with the 'Jabs' are not good enough).

OR:

Download the NHS app and follow the sequence, this will give you an instant electronic copy of your certificate, Beware this is only valid for one month, therefore get your timings right. GOOD LUCK.

We may well be asked to pay for Covid tests and we are awaiting verification from the trip coordinator and will keep you all informed.

Chairman's Comments:

Chris thanked **Pete Robson** for initiating and organizing a very enjoyable day out at the **International Bomber Command Centre** in Lincoln on Thursday 29th July 2021. This is a place that needs visiting by anybody who holds this country dear, we must never forget the tremendous sacrifice made by the aircrews of the RAF during WW2, remember that these crews, shining youth on the threshold of life, lived under circumstances of intolerable strain. They were in fact – and they knew it - faced with the virtual certainty of death, probably in one of its least pleasant forms. They knew well enough, that they owed their circumstances to the stupidity,

negligence and selfishness of an older generations who since 1918 had done little to avert another war and even less to prepare for it. Who, from this older generation would deny these young men the opportunity to party at every opportunity? Eat drink and be merry for the next time we shall certainly die. If there is a Valhalla, these Crews will be found there at all the parties, seated far above the salt.



The above photo was taken next to the Spire of Remembrance representing the wings of both a Lancaster and a Wellington bomber. In the background Lincoln Cathedral can be clearly seen, probably the last siting of England many crews will have seen as they left for operations, also a welcome first site for returning aircraft. The late **Les Ransom's** elder brother's name was found (**Charles Edger Clark**) on one of the panels, just one of the 58,000 who paid the ultimate price.

The trip was finished with a welcome debrief at the **Dam busters Inn, Scampton**, an extraordinary pub and 'Heritage Centre' whose name was inspired by events one moonlit night in 1943 when the RAF, 617 Squadron wrote themselves into the history books of this country.

Proposed Arnhem Trip for September 2022, numbers and names needed for cabin allocations, names to Chris Shillito ASAP.

An AGM is been planned for the 1st October 2021 at the Minerva, maximum effort on attendance requested with your chance to change anything, including the administration, make a note in your dairy.

Chris is in contact with Jim Cherry who is doing OK and he sends his best to all at the association.

Items from members: MEMORIES OF MIKE GADD

Craig has kindly thrown an open invitation to this association to celebrate his dad's life, he was a well-respected, supporter and friend of us all and will be sadly missed. It's all happing at Gaddies Towers on Sunday 29th August 2021, a chance to say good bye denied by the virus, for further details contact Craig: 07974086591.

Bud Oldfield and Nev. Smales sends their best wishes via Terry Cunningham, Nev. is having a bit of a bad time at the moment hopefully will be fit enough for the AGM in Oct.

Johnny Mace brought news from down under and the Dave & Carol situation is going from bad to worse, the progressive nature of Carols disease has landed her in hospital were somehow she has managed to break a hip, we can only despair at their predicament in sending our thoughts and prayers to them, hopelessly unable to offer them no other help whatsoever, life can be so cruel with only those amongst us who can handle the pain selectively standing on, Dave must be on his last reserves of courage, dig deep old friend.

Simbos striptease bus Stop: one winner this month **Terry Cunningham** with 'Teddies'.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: Friday September 3rd 2021 at the Ship Inn, Dunswell, kick off 20:00 hrs.

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

Dates for your diary:

“THE BATTLEFIELDS OF NORMANDY”

This is a 4 Day trip commencing on the 10th September 2021 details to be confirmed.
Further details contact Gaz Coe. Tel: 01757 268188, e-mail: coeblimey240@gmail.com & Glenn Ratten on glennratten@icloud.com Mob: 07795248328.

Cromwell Lock disaster Service of Remembrance (timings TBC) on Sunday 26th September 2021 at the Memorial Garden next to the Lock near Newark. RSVP John Lee jlee664@btinternet.com Tel: 01531 636865.

299 Association AGM on Friday 1st October 2021 at the Minerva, group photo at 19:45 in Rugby shirts

AGM/reunion 31st Anniversary to be held over the week end Fri 15 – 17th Oct. 2021 at the Cedar Court Hotel, Park Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5AH. This event is been hosted by the Yorkshire branch of the AEA.

For further details contact Adam Frame on adamandemma@gmail.com Mb: 07809904216

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 7TH NOV. 2021, 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, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690, Mb: 07877277288.

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

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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

