



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 2nd December 2016.

Members Present: R. Able, M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton, K. Blacker, J. Brooks, G. Coe, N. Cooper, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, C. Duggan, A. Foster, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, C. Henrickson, D. Hines, S. Hoyle, P. Jefferson, A. Kitching, C. Lickiss, J. Mace, D. Meekin, F. Pougher, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, K. Russell, K. Saddington, C. Shillito, P. Sims, L. Smith, B. Steele, A. Stimpson, J. Thompson, J. C. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock, D. Woollas.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, D. French, J. Duffy, N. Arksey, Mike. Tindle, A. Kitching, A. Costello, D. Ideson, D. Harvey, A. Irwin, L. Ransom, C. Walker.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all too yet again a very well attended meeting, (40) and opened by inviting **Terry Cunningham** to recite that famous verse of **Laurence Binyon's** poem "Too the Fallen" **They shall grow not old.....**

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

Proposed by – **Frank (Bud) Pougher**.

Seconded by – **Pete Robson**.

Treasure's Report:

Martin gave a brief account of the funds which are still in good order. Last month's expenditures included wreaths, buffet and stationary needs. He thanked **Paul Sims** for a further £30 collected from bus stops passed around in the Minerva on Remembrance Sunday. Another seven places were taken up to night for the next year's Arnhem trip!

Correspondence:

Armistice Day 11/11/2016:

A substantial crowd gathered around the Cenotaph in Hull to respect the eleventh hour on the eleventh day with a good number from this association. Many dignitaries and councillors including the Lord Mayor of Hull were in attendance, also a local radio station: **Radio Viking FM** who managed to collar the Chairman **Chris Shillito** amongst many for an open interview on the subject of Remembrance, as expected his performance was judged par excellent and the radio station played these snippets throughout the day.

Remembrance Sunday 13/11/2016:

Short letter of congratulation to this association received from a Mr N. Barker on the splendid turnout from this association for the Remembrance Sunday parade in Hull. He remarked, not only on the numbers, but on the immediate presence of military bearing which set 299 apart from the others on parade. He praised the efforts of the 94 year old Arnhem Veteran **Les Ransom** along with his daughter **Mary Ann's** help in managing to get him to the Cenotaph in time to join the wreath laying party from this association, consisting of **Neil Cooper & Mike Beardshaw**. As mentioned by others, "**Les's** act of Remembrance received a well-deserved and respectful public round of applause from those bearing witness"

Chris Shillito posted a big thankyou to those association men attending the Remembrance Sunday parade, (34 on parade and another 7-8 observers'). We had a good parade, a good mixture of Red & Green which created a great atmosphere back at the Minerva where **Tony Weldon** had organised a buffet with the landlord for all to enjoy, including the families. He reserved a special thanks to our Standard bearers: **Tony Irwin** carried on Armistice Day, and **Paul Sims** carried on Remembrance Sunday. Thanks must go to **Craig Gadd** for providing the bottle of the finest Port for 299's pre muster drink.

"Bullnose" Service of Remembrance 27/11/2016: Invitation for this association to attend.

Dave Hines posted that a good number of association men had responded to **Brian Bilton's** request for 299 Association to attend the Memorial Service at the "**Bullnose**" this was the trawler men's final departure point from Hull before heading for the Arctic fishing grounds with all the dangers that this could bring. This is an annual service of Remembrance held for the thousands of Hull fishermen that perished at sea over the years, whilst trying to harvest this country's fish supplies. They must never be forgotten, and this association was honoured in receiving this invite.

N/B: Apparently Channel 4 TV were filming these proceedings for some forth coming documentary and the producer remarked that he thought our Vice Chairman **Bill Drayton** bore a un-canny resemblance to the famous film actor **Charles Bronson** of the "Death Wish" film series, amongst many other films, `now` after **Bill's** health scare last year, (a massive heart attack), this was the last thing he wanted to hear, but never the less, this has not stopped **Billy** signing autographs for free and spending too much time at the mirror, he also informed the TV production team that because he is retired, he is fully available at this moment in time! You just cannot keep a good man down.



One of John Frost's men, Les Ransom, escorted by his daughter Mary Ann at the Hull Cenotaph 2016.

2299 Association's wreath laying party enjoying a well-earned pint in the Minerva



NEIL COOPER

LES RANSOM

MIKE BEARDSHAW

Courtesy of Dave Hines

Sqn News: from 2 IC Capt. John C. Thompson.

It's all good news on the recruitment front with 299 heading the enlistment and retention league amongst the special forces Reservist units, the Squadron strength numbers around 200 fully trained with this been maintained over a good period of time. The Squadron is currently looking at a change of direction in their training, but this is still at the development stage.

The Squadron is been made ready for deployment to Southern Sudan around July 2017, this will be in a humanitarian role.

A very large exercise, "Eagle's Bill" is planned for later in 2017 involving the full Regiment.

Social Calendar: See Dates for your Diary.

Chairman's Comments: Chris Shillito praised the contributions by members from this association which have been published in the December edition of the AEA Journal:

Fred Gray ex 299 & 9 Sqn, also former AEA Archivist, aided by **Sir Donald Spiers** have finally managed to get **THE AIRBORNE ENGINEER ROLL OF HONOUR** located in the entrance hall of RHQ 23 Para Engr Regt, at Rock Barracks, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and is now under the care of the Regt Padre who periodically turns the pages. This beautiful leather bound book was researched and produced by **Fred with his wife Betty** and now resides in an Oak & glass case for all to see. Two years ago it was updated to include all men killed whilst in training, this again was **Fred's** work and we are proud to call him one of our own, another Hull man done well.

Tony Costello's brilliant account of his and **Les Ransom's** trip to Colchester as guests of 2 Para, this was included in the September minutes, just look back. **Dave Rutter**, (editor of the AEA Journal), included a piece on **Les's** journey into the 1st Airborne Division way back in 1942. Many photos of **Les** in this edition.

Bill Drayton's account of this year's Arnhem Pilgrimage taken from the association's October minutes, again just look back, including the salute taken at Driel by **Frank (Bud) Pougher & Brad Steele**.

The Chairman then presented an association rugby shirt, free gratis to **Tony Foster** for the sterling photography work undertaken within the Squadron, this can be seen as a huge thank you for his time and the many professional prints freely given, his generosity is much appreciated by us all.

Matters arising:

Very sad news broke this week; **Mrs Tindle** passed away peacefully at her nursing home on Sunday morning, 27th November, we all feel for our friends the **Tindle** brothers and their families at a time like this, we can only offer our sympathy and support and nothing can ease that pain of loss, this is a lonely, empty place for them to be in at this moment in time and our thoughts go with them. The Funeral service is at the Willerby Crematorium on Tuesday 6th December 2016, 11,30hrs.

Items from Members:

Dave Hines is putting together an order for enamel poppy pins of various designs, ie some with wings or daggers etc, if interested contact **Dave** [Tel: 01482 860981](tel:01482860981) or 07821698522.

Simbo's bus stops, two winners tonight; Dave Hines & Bill Drayton.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP BUILD `SANTA'S` GROTTO FOR THE UNDER PRIVILAGED KIDS OF NORTH BRANSHOLME IN HULL.

N/B: If you help, the kids promise not to steal the wheels off your car, how can you refuse an offer like that?

This is all taking place on the 7th December, next Wednesday, any amount of time you can spare would be gratefully received Just get in touch with **Gaz Coe** on Tel: 01757 268188 or **Sheggs** on Tel: 01482 806690 or 07877277288.

Messages of good will:

Over the last few weeks the following people have asked me to pass on their regards/season's greetings to you all; please accept my apologies if I miss some one out, its only memory.

Fred Gray, Tony Costello, Tim Van De Kraan, Derek French, John Donaldson, Dave Rutter, Mike Ridge, John Lee and Lee Mapplebeck.

Other associations:

As you know we are all members of 299 Association because of our service or agreed association with 299, this does not prevent people joining any other association if they wish to do so, "**we still live in a free country**" Many of our members have joined other associations such as the Airborne Engineers Association, Parachute Regiment Association, Royal Engineers Association, Commando Engineers Association. Our affiliation with the AEA exists solely by virtue of numbers of Parachute trained Engineers, relics of the old 131 Para Engr Regt and the numbers of these men will continue to decrease with age just as the Commando Engr trained men of 299 will become more dominant in numbers, thus playing the bigger role within this association. We cannot dismiss 299's 30yrs spell as Commando Engineers, this is our history.

N/B: I always carry application forms for the AEA and can obtain other association forms as required.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: Friday 6th January 2017 in the Minerva at 20.00hrs on the Corporation Pier, Hull.

Dates for your diary:

All Ranks, past & Present, Xmas Party at 299 Para Sqn RE on 10th December 2016. (As advertised in the November minutes).

To be held in the AR Centre, George Street, Wakefield. The evening will offer a Christmas buffet lunch followed by live music in the bar and then the Xmas money tree.

Dress smart casual, timings for the evening will be 19.00hrs in the Squadron bar ready to be seated at 19.30hrs.

Transport will be provided from Hull & Gateshead if required, and will be leaving from relevant AR Centres on Saturday 10th December 2016, returning the same night, timings TBC, Each Detachment will provide a driver.

The cost of the evening will be £10p/p, this includes a free prize raffle entry.

Early notification for attendance is required. (Through the Barracks please).

Arnhem Pilgrimage: Thursday 14th – Monday 18th September 2017.

N/B: The only sure way of guaranteeing your place on this trip is by placing a £50 deposit with **Martin** our Treasurer, **the list will close when the coach is full**, therefore if you wish to partake make the commitment and reserve your place now to avoid any disappointments.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR