



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 7th December 2018 at the Minerva.

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, A. Foster, R. Franklin, R. Gill, D. Harvey, D. Hines, A. Homan, A. Irwin, T. James, P. Jefferson, A. Kitching, A. Lee, J. Mace, A. McGlynn, K. Millington, P. Morris, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Saddington, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, J. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, Lt Col C. Wilcock.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, A. Costello, B. Steel, S. Hoyle, M. Holdsworth, A. Stimpson, G. Beaumont, M. Maddison, J. Duffy, A. Alcock, D. Woollas, C. Henrickson.

N/B: The men offering apologies did so by including their seasonal greetings to you all.

Guests: Eileen Robinson, (Keith's widow), Ben. Bridges, (Aden vet, former Hull City player and long-time friend of 299), Ben Frazer (299 friend and serving soldier of the very special kind).

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present by introducing tonight's guests, then invited **Key. Saddington** to recite the Exhortation to the upstanding members, before opening the meeting.

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

Proposed by – **T. Cunningham.**

Seconded by – **A. Kitching.**

Treasure's Report:

Martin gave a comprehensive account of our funds as they stand at the present with all being well, the monies raised (£504) from the raffle held in the Minerva after Remembrance parade more than covered the cost for the excellent buffet provided by the pub. Hotel deposit has been paid for 58 people attending Arnhem 2019.

Relevant correspondence:

John Donaldson, e-mail dated 4/11/2018; I would like to thank the members for the support you have given me during this fight for the GSM62 with clasp South Arabia. There will be a press release this week to be sent out by **Angus MacNeil MP**, unfortunately I don't know which papers will print the story. The fight will continue for the rest of the squadron.

N/B: Gary Coe (Sec.) wishes to thank personally the 299 Association men who took time out to write to your respective MP's, or the MoD, especially **Derek French** who did an awful lot of spade work on this topic.

Mike Ridge, e-mail, 4/11/2018. Thanks this association for keeping him in touch with the squadron, "it was great news to hear the lads are going to get their medals"

Dave Mace (Sydney, Australia), message bd, dated 5/11/2018. My condolences to **John Duffy** on the passing of his wife **Fay** and his daughter earlier this year, very, very sad, my thoughts are with **John** at this time.

Alan Lee, message bd, dated 7/11/2018. Just like to say good job on the website with the remembrance poppies and that all-time favourite song 'pack up your troubles' very well done.

N/B: For those of you without the computer, and not knowing what **Alan** is talking about, **Dave Hines (web Master)** had very cleverly introduced falling poppy petals across the screen of the associations Roll of Honour page, and it ran throughout the remembrance week, this was accompanied with the song 'pack up your troubles,' **Dave's** talent knows no bounds, and he has now changed the tune to the universal and appropriate Hymn 'Abide with me' and removed the falling petals, many thanks **Dave** on behalf of all at the association. I would urge everybody to look and see, and for those without, ask the grand kids to show you.

Chris Shillito, message bd, dated 12/11/2018.

WELL ATTENDED REMEMBRANCEDAY PARADE BY THE 299 ASSOCIATION, GREAT TO HAVE 1 TROOP 299 PARA SQUADRON WITH US.

THANKS TO SIMBO FOR RUNNING THE RAFFLE AND WELDO FOR ORGANISING A GREAT BUFFET AND MOST OF ALL, YOU GUYS FOR TURNING UP TO SHOW OUR RESPECTS AT THE CENOTAPH.

OUR WREATH LAYERS; DAVE HINES AND BRIAN BILTON DID A GOOD JOB, AND AFTERWOODS THE MINERVA WAS BUZZING WITH GOOD FRIENDS AND TALL STORIES, WELL DONE TO ALL CONCERNED.

Tony Foster, message bd, 12/11/2018. A very good day for 299 Association, well turned out for Remembrance Sunday. I am proud to be part of this Association

Tony Costello, message bd, 23/11/2018. Gentlemen, I have many copies of the Pegasus magazine also AEA journals and I need to dispose of before moving house. Anyone interested collect from Swanland, Contact Tel: 01482 2632100.

PS: **Syd** will you please pass this on to the PRA.

Councillor A. Harrison, message bd, 28/11/2018.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

It's that time of the year again 299, and I'm asking for help with the children's Christmas Grotto on Wed. 5th Dec. at the North Brandsholme Community Centre, Lothian Way, Hull, HU7 5DD, (next to Herron's foods), any amount of time would be gratefully received, kick off around 9:00hrs onwards, any other info contact me direct on Mb: 07766468016, or Tony Kitching on Mb: 079300015184.

Johnny Mace, message bd, 28/11/2018. Gents one our comrades **Graham Beaumont** has been taken to HRI as an emergency after collapsing in Cottingham. He has had to have two blood clots removed from his legs and has been put on blood thinners, tests show more clots. **Doreen (wife)** said he is on Ward 7, keep fighting Beau.

Will keep you all in touch at the December meeting.

Terry Cunningham, message bd. 29/11/2018. Hi lads, just been to HRI to visit Beau and he's been discharged, so must have been sorted out, get well soon Beau and take care.

Steve Brown, forwarded an e-mail from **John Lee** received 30/11/2018.

Gentlemen, I attach a copy of a letter received from the Chief Executive of BLESMA thanking the Association and the Chatham Branch in particular for the donations given to them following the Gala Dinner held last month. It was a splendid effort and I would be obliged if you would kindly pass this round at your next meeting or function. (Letter was passed around showing monies raised £1,665).

Please pass on my best wishes to all members and I hope to see as many of you as possible in 2019.

Chris Shillito, message bd, 30/11/2018. Gentlemen, me, **Gary Coe & Glenn Ratten** are running next year's Arnhem trip, just as the previous years. The next Arnhem is the 75th Anniversary so there will be a lot of people in the area. Sorry to say the trip is now full, there are 58 of us on the coach and another 7 joining us, so 65 of us sitting for the evening meal on the Friday evening.

If you want to put your name down on the reserve list, have a word with **Glenn Ratten** at the next meeting in the Minerva on 7th December.

Gaz Coe, Message bd. 30/11/2018. **BEAU'S wellbeing**, just come off the phone with **Beau**, he is home and recovering well, he had an attack of deep vein thrombosis to the legs, the medics have cleared the blockages and put him on blood thinners. He has been cut to pieces, therefore we may not see him at the meetings for a while, he thanks you all for the many messages of good will, especially the lads who managed to pay a visit; **Terry & Weldo**.

PS: sorry lads, the new shoes will still be needed.

Paul Robinson, message bd, 1/12/2018.

Lads, just to let you know I'm home on a flying visit, tomorrow I will be burying my dad's ashes in the village graveyard in Skirlaugh, the headstone is already there, so this is the final chapter.

He will be in the same area as another 299 member, his old mate **Bri. Coe**, also overlooking his beloved allotment, also just a big thanks to Dave Hines for producing the calendar in my dad's name, a truly wonderful thing to do, I will cherish mine forever. **Respect**.

Tony Kitch, message bd. 6/12/2018, Forwarded message from **Councillor Anita Harrison**.

Anita said, a big thanks to all from 299 who helped put up the Christmas fair, the kids loved it.

Social Calendar:

299 Association are holding a Charity Dinner / Dance on Friday 15th March 2019 at the Village Hotel, Hessel, near Hull HU4 7DY.

This will be a 3 Course dinner including an after dinner speaker of world renown '**Rusty Fairman**'

A full evening's entertainment is planned with live music & dancing, including fund raising events.

Tickets are £45p/p and if you want a room at the hotel, book early and get the discounts, double/twin room with breakfasts about £50 based on two sharing, you can't beat that.

Andy Green has organised this event to raise money for the "**Pilgrim Bandits**" a charity that works with people who are struggling with extreme difficulties & disabilities, not necessarily ex-military, using personnel,

who possess many unique skills, mainly developed & nurtured during their own military careers, they help to motivate the disadvantaged, in trying to get them to achieve personal challenges rated way above their own expectations, "always a little further" hence, this statement has become the charity's mantra.

A classic example of this charity's work can be seen in the case of **Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson MBE 7 Para RHA** from Doncaster, believed to be the most injured soldier to survive his wounds, which he received serving in Afghanistan during 2006, who can forget seeing him on TV carrying the Olympic torch through Doncaster city centre during 2012. For further details see 'Dates for your Diary' this event deserves full support from the 'mighty 299' therefore let's make a good night of it.

Chairman's comments:

299 Association had been invited to join Councillor Peter Allen, The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull and Admiral of the Humber, also Councillors and Senior Officers, Clergy & Veterans, in the laying wreaths on Thursday 8th Nov. at the memorial "Too the Fallen" on the North Brandholme Estate, in Hull.

The Chairman led a small group of 299 Association members, including the Standard carried by **Tony Irwin** in a slow procession up to the memorial for a short service and the laying of wreaths, **Tony Kitching** laid on behalf of this association. Many crosses carrying personal messages were left in remembrance.

N/B: the vandals on this estate have never abuse this monument, the messages from previous years where left, still in place, there's hope for us all yet!

Remembrance Sunday & Armistice Day at the Hull Cenotaph; The Chairman had nothing but praise for the members of this association with over 40 men parading and numbers increasing to over 50 for the afters down the Minerva, were we were joined by the men from 1 Troop 299 Squadron plus friends & families, the whole place was buzzing as can be seen in his message posted the day after.

Paul Sims carried our standard also ran the raffle in the Minerva, aided by **Tony Weldon**, most of all he thanked you men for your generosity in donations for the raffle and the taking part in what turned out to be a splendid day. He reserved a special thanks for the photographic work carried out by **Tony Foster** ex Para Regt. and associate member of this association, he uses his professional skills on every occasion and is often unintentionally taken for granted when producing portraits & disks on demand.

Chris Shillito brought news that our Arnhem vet **Les Ransom** had been invited to attend, as a guest of Honour, the Meriden Rotary Club Remembrance Day dinner on the 13th November 2018, this was held at the Manor Hotel in Meriden, (the dead centre of England), with the proceeds going to **SSAFA** Birmingham branch, this charity had helped and supported **Davey Bowron**, and others, in a big way, as they came towards the end of their lives.

Mike (Ozzy) Holdsworth currently occupies the Chair at this branch of the Rotary Club with **Eamon Smyth** being the branch representative, thus a strong 301 Sqn. presence supported this occasion and helped raise the funds that are so badly needed. A massive thankyou to **Mike** for considering **Les** as an honouree guest.

Les Ransom is ex 3 Pt. 250 Coy RASC 1st Airborne Division and actually got to the bridge in Arnhem with **Major John Frost** during Sept 1944, along with the 2nd Battalion, and he shared the Honouree position on this occasion with **Arney Hutchinson** ex 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment, 6th Division, he fought in the Ardennes, also the Crossing of the Rhine, he was accompanied by **Vera Wilkinson**, both men are well into their nineties.

The Queen had been notified about this evening's events and she sent her royal greetings for a successful and enjoyable occasion, a toast to the Queen by her loyal subjects was gratefully received by prior anticipation.

Les had been accompanied on this grand occasion by **Cpl Tom James 1 Troop 299 Sqn. 23 Para Reg RE** who volunteered to take **Les**, giving him a hand as and when needed, the Chairman thanked **Tom** for doing a splendid job taking care of this fellow 299 Association man and Arnhem vet. **Tom's** effort was applauded.

On the 5th December a small party of men from this association helped to build a Christmas experience for the children on the North Brandholme Housing Estate in Hull, **Councillor Harrison** initiates these projects and relies heavily upon the volunteers from this association, and as your Chairman, I want to thank the men who

worked tirelessly in the pouring rain to give these less fortunate children from this estate some kind of Christmas, and for some this will be it. Appreciation has been received from Hull City Council and any possible, and personal rewards pending, will be assessed at **St. Peters Gate**. (Not long to wait then).

Matters arising: I am including the following taken from the minutes of the Scottish Branch of the AEA on their 20th AGM, held in Edinburgh on 18th November 2018.

GSM (Aden): John Donaldson submitted the following report; following a letter from **Lord Howe**, MoD, to **Angus MacNeil MP** to say that those who were killed and wounded at Al Milah on 12th April 1965, OUGHT to receive medallic recognition, the MoD Medal Office informed **John** that former **Capt. Eogham Maclachlainn's** GSM had been sent to his Edinburgh address on 8th Nov.2018. They also requested that **John** contact the late **WO2 John Lonergan's** family in Canada and the late **Sgt George Gibson Earls** family, also in Canada, that they would also receive respective GSM's on completion of the medal claim forms. **John** has contacted both families and requested that they complete the forms and return them to the MoD. **Mrs Earl** was also requested to send them her late husband's Death Certificate. On receipt of the forms the medals would immediately be sent to them.

It was acknowledged by all members present that **John Donaldson's** contribution towards the awarding of the GSM was exceptional and he was applauded accordingly.

Watch this space as there is more to come.

Presentation of GSM. On 16th Nov. 2018 **John Donaldson** presented himself at Edinburgh Castle. He spoke with the Governor's P.A, **Linda Lyness**, explained to her the situation, and asked her if it would be possible to have former **Capt. Eoghann Maclachlainn's** GSM presented to him at the castle. She informed **John** that she would speak to **Capt. Lawrence Wotherspoon** and get back to him. **John** handed over to her his account of what had occurred at Al Milah and a copy of the e-mails sent to him by the MoD Medal Office. Later that afternoon **Capt. Wotherspoon** telephoned **John** to say that the Governor of Edinburgh Castle **Major General Michael Lawrence Riddell – Webster CBE DSO** had agreed that the medal could be presented at the castle and the Governor would make the presentation himself. **John** did not expect that. **John** was of the opinion that after waiting 53 years for this medal it should not just be dropped through **Eoghann's** letterbox. It was agreed that the presentation would take place at Edinburgh Castle at 13:00hrs on Sunday 16th December 2018. **John** also made arrangement for **Eoghann's** GSM to be court mounted for the presentation. Over and above **Eoghann's** family and some members of the Scottish Branch, **Angus MacNeil MP** will also attend the presentation.

John Donaldson's efforts and achievements were acknowledged and applauded by the whole meeting.

Items from members:

Keith Robinson's final resting place

I paid my respects to **Robbie** the other afternoon in the pouring rain, and felt there may be more of you out there wishing to do similar, therefore here goes: - A165 Hull road to Skirlough, (7 miles), right turn onto Church Lane for 300 yards to St. Augustine's Church, this is a large Church with an extensive Church yard, many graves, (thousands), follow the gravel path past the Church, bearing right and sticking to the path for 300 yards through many older burials up to the gate at the bottom field, (I've heard he had a liking for the 'bottom' field at Lymptone), go through the gate and turn left into the field containing newer graves, follow the fence up to a massive tree stump, you are now at his grave.

The headstone is in dark marble, the profile is as a stepped Ogee including chamfer's to the pediment with the lettering picked out in white. The land falls away from this point, down towards a hedgerow which is, at this time of the year stripped of leaves, allowing full view of his allotments at the other side.

If you stand in front, and facing **Robbie's** headstone, then pace out 5 yards in a 1 o'clock direction you will arrive at **Brian (Grass) Coe's** final resting place, thus 'killing two birds with one stone' so to speak. **Gaz Coe**.

The Hull standard bearers annual dinner took place on 26th November 2018 at the Theatre Hotel in Hull. This annual event is organised and funded by the RBL / CESA organisations and our own **Tony Irwin** was invited with companion, he chose **Marion Woodward** for this role, this prodigious event attracts the Hull City dignitaries which this year included the very reverend **Neil Barnes MA** from the Hull Minster, who happened to remark on our unique 299 Association tie that **Tony** was wearing, and he proclaimed that in his opinion, it is the most outstandingly impressive military tie he has ever come across.

USO – United Service’s Organisation, is an American organisation designed to give certain benefits to former and serving personnel of all armed forces. **Chris Wilcock** became aware of the many advantages of this organisation whilst travelling in the States and encourages you all to carry ID and proof of service such as association membership cards, etc.

The benefits may include free privileged access to places and venues which you would otherwise have to pay, preferential treatment in many areas yet to be explored.

Terry Cunningham brought news from our old Doncaster members of **Bud Oldfield, Nev Smales, John Davis & Ken Newton**, all seem to be doing OK other than the odd aces & pains, all chuffed to bits with their 299 calendars & Diaries and send their best wishes to you all for the festive season.

Dave Harvey has reached the dizzy heights of runner up in the World Championship art of Tai Chi over in Dun Gwann, China, he has come back with one Gold & one Silver plus a fistful of certificates all written in Chinese but very impressive, he is taking part in an interview to be broadcast on Radio Humberside in the near future. He was congratulated on his success, receiving much applause from the membership.

Dave Hines was thanked and congratulated on his many IT skills in producing endless 299 memorabilia, this was greeted with applause, but on a sadder note **Dave** has had to pull the plug on the proposed WW1 Battle Field Trip planned for 2019 due to lack of interest.

Simbos bus Stop: one winner this month **Kev. Saddy.**

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: to be held on 4th January 2019 at the Minerva, Nelson St, Hull, 20:00hrs.

WITH NOTHING MORE TO DISCUSS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING THANKING ALL FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE WISHING ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Dates for your diary: **299,s Dinner/Dance Charity Event**

“Always a little further” is the mantra for these Pilgrim Bandits

THE PILGRIM BANDITS CHARITY are intending to hold an evening’s entertainment to take place at the Village Hotel, Hessle, Hull, on Friday 15th March 2019.

This will consist of an evening meal with the after dinner speaker Rusty Fairman, who was the blue team leader at the Iranian Embassy siege.

A full evening is planned including live music, dancing and fund raising activities, it will be a ticketed event, timings to be confirmed later via our point of contact Andy Green, Mb: 07967771561.

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.

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.

Arnhem 2019 booking Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Tel: 01757 700016, Mb: 07795248328.

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

WELFARE:

The veterans Hub & Forum, point of contact Paddy Nolan, (ex 1 Para), for all your problems

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

Tel: 01482 485956, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org

