



## 299 ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the AEA, but as always open to ALL 299 men past & present.

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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

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**Date:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 at the Minerva, 20:00 hrs

**Members Present:** R. Able, D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, D. French, P. Hairsine, C. Ham, D. Harvey, D. Hines, A. Irwin, M. Lawrence, M. Maddison, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, K. Millington, B. Oldfield, F. Pougher, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Saddington, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, N. Sisson, R. Swatman, A. Thomas, J. Thompson, T. Walker, A. Weldon.

**Apologies:** F. Gray, P. Robinson, S. Knowles, Mart. Tindle, A. Costello, A. Alcock, G. Beaumont, K. Blacker, J. Brooks, C. Duggan, C. Gadd, R. Gill, J. Harrison, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, A. Kitching, J. Mace, D. Woollas, N. Yates.

**Guests:** Steve Saddington, Scott Walker, Pauline Meekin.

### **Welcome and 'Roll Call'**

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting by introducing one of our special guests **Scott Walker** who just happens to be having a birthday this day, and of course he got the full treatment happy birthday song, **Scott** is the son of **Terry Walker** ex 1<sup>st</sup> Batt Para Regt and 299 Squadron RE and an active and popular member of this association. **Scott** has a few problems with his everyday life because being paraplegic, (wheelchair bound), giving him many challenges that most of us will never have to experience, but thankfully he enjoys a fulfilment and quality in life, assured by his father's diligence, this is all credit to **Terry**.

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

Proposed by – **Frank Pougher**

Seconded by – **Dave Hines** and carried

### **Treasure's Report:**

**Glenn** brought the meeting up to date with the association's financial status and reminded the meeting that deposits for Arnhem 2022 are now due, **Glenn** has to take responsibility for this side of the trip, therefore deal with him ONLY on this matter, the carriers we will require to run this trip want names and numbers and this association will not work on promises, therefore it's up to you guy's, the committee wants to get the best deal possible and it can only be done with the facts, we are still learning, and we are all taking enough risks already due to these troubled viral times.

### **Correspondence:**

**Apologies to you all, especially Dave, for this late entry on the first item, (the website was down).**

**Spr. Dave Mace** posted the following on the message board on 4/10/ 2021, **Gary & 299 Comrades**, thank you so much for your kind words on the passing of my soul mate and lover **Carol**. **Gary** highlighted the terrible circumstances of my beautiful wife's condition, 46 years gone, but never goodbye, like all who have fallen, either in duty of their country, or a loved one, as the Aussie's say "See you Later"

All the best to you all from **Dave**: Botany Bay, Sydney, Australia.

**Email sent out to this association's expats; inviting** them to consider our intended **Pilgrimage** to Arnhem next year, as one or two of them were considering a trip back to 'Blighty' Could combine both needs and witness something that should never be missed, especially with the 299 connection's, look at the 'Roll of Honour' on our website and count the 299 men who fought at Arnhem.

One reply so far: **Adam Garforth** email dated 13/11/2021

Greetings from Bulgaria (**Land of the Living dead**) Many thanks for your email **Gaz**, always great to hear news and receive the 299 Association minutes, the 131 bulletin was interesting, I hope that you and the lads have a good one in the Minerva after the Armistice, Take it easy mate, hope to see you at Arnhem, might drive over in the UAS 452 (Russian 4x4) that I am doing up, its less than 2,000 miles, **Garth**.

## **131, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion – April 2022**

Dear former member of 131.

It is our pleasure to invite you to our all-ranks reunion to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 131's foundation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1947.

**The event will take place at 131 Commando Squadron, Lomergan Lines, Kingsbury on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 with gates opening at 13:00 hrs.**

Parking and accommodation will be available to those who wish to overnight at Kingsbury before departing the following day, there will be displays, entertainment, the PRI shop, good food and drink, and much more.

Please put the event in your diaries now and we will write out with further information no later than mid-December.

We hope you will be able to join us to celebrate our Airborne and Commando Sapper heritage, to re-new bonds of friendship and make new ones,

With best wishes

**Olaf Dudley OC 131 Cdo Sqn.**

## Remembrance Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Chris Shillito (Chairman)** posted the following on the message board on 17/11/2021:

A fantastic day on Sunday, the parade went well (42 marched), and it was packed out in every part of the Minerva, where thanks to most of you guy's we had a raffle of very generous proportions, with some top notch prizes, thank you all.

We auctioned a bottle of 22 SAS Port thanks to a donation from **Dave Meekin** who gave most of the money to the association which fetched £500, with the winning bid going to **Martin Saddler**, (well done **Martin**), A painting donated by **Bud Oldfield** which **Tommo** won for his man cave and a painting of 'The battle of Arnhem' donated by **Fred Gray** the author of the book 'Airborne Engineers' won by my son **John** and some beautiful prizes donated by you awesome people, well done everyone.

A few photos taken by our own **tony foster**, brilliant. A big thank you **Paul Hairsine** and **Percy McGlyn** our wreath layers, although they only let one man up to the Cenotaph this year, **Percy** can lay it next year.



**Paul Hairsine**

**Hull Cenotaph 2021**

## John Humphreys OBE DL

**Steve Wallis (AEA Chairman)** forwarded an email from **Chris Davis** on 19/11/2021 regarding the above gentleman who will be 100 years old on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and resides in the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

**John**, one of the last Arnhem RE vets left and **Chris** would like to honour the man in the following way, see email:

If **Chris** manages to get permission from the Captain of invalids, then I would like to get ALL of the AEA National and branch standards as well as the 299 Association standard and the RA (Airborne) standard to attend on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Could you please confirm?

- a) That you have a branch or one of the National standards.
- b) That you can attend.

In the case that you have a standard but have no ability to attend on the day, please let me know and I will see if I can get someone else to carry your standard.

**John Ferry** – are you able to attend and play the pipes on the day?

**Potential reply** will depend upon any volunteer from this association willing to spend a day on the train traveling to London and back. Will ask at the next meeting. **No volunteers stepped forward.**

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## Cromwell Lock (The up keep and maintenance of the garden)

**Email from Steve Wallis (AEA Chairman)** received on 19/11/2022.

At the recent AGM I discussed the memorial at Cromwell Lock.

With the agreement of the 299 Association, Birmingham Branch and Scotland Branch I took an action to contact the Canal and River Trust to request permission to carry out refurbishment works on the memorial, to-day I was told by the authorities that we can go ahead with the works. I now intend to start these works.

Additionally, I took an action to organise a meeting between the three branches to discuss the future maintenance of the memorial.

**REPLY:** In my reply to Steve, I pointed out that 'if the garden was taken away' there would be no maintenance required, just grass to cut up to the Crag bearing the names of our departed 'brothers in arms', this would be carried out by the River men as a part of their general grass cutting maintenance around the area, and would defiantly attract many more people to investigate and read the plaque, which cannot be read without entering the garden, therefore actively discouraging further investigation of this monument, this is something I have witnessed during my years doing this site's maintenance.

This memorial, lying within the garden is sited on a busy public footpath, but people are very reluctant to enter the enclosed garden space, maybe on the grounds of respect, but upon questioning, most people don't know what it is all about, thinking it's maybe a private monument and not for public view, which is a shame, when we want the world to remember the price that can be paid in training by our departed friends from Scotland. G.Coe.

## Message from Fred Gray

Email dated 23/11/2021

Hi 299 Association, regret I will not be at the next association meeting, distance from home to Hull is now getting more and more difficult, however I do intend to visit my family early in the new year.

I hope your tombola was a success and you raised a few pennies for your chosen charities. Please pass on my very best wishes to all the association members.

**Betty** and I will be attending the funeral of **Tony Gilbert** on 26<sup>th</sup>, he served in 131 Reg and 9 Para, and his father was a Major in 131 (Honeypot Lane), Kingsbury. Best wishes **Fred**. **(He is always welcome)**.

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### Sqn News:

## Remembrance Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Troop Sgt Tom James** 1 Troop 299 Para Squadron RE sends his thanks on behalf of his men for the generous invite to the association's after parade buffet in the Minerva.



Pete Robson

Hull Cenotaph 2021

### **Chairman's Comments:**

**Chris** informed the meeting about an invitation for this association to lay wreaths, along with the Lord Mayor of Hull on a memorial called 'To the Fallen' sited on the North Brandsholme Estate in Hull. This all took place on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and was well supported by councillors from the 'Hull Chambers of Commerce' plus Clergy and local Veterans, standards were carried, including 299 Association's by **Tony Irwin**, a short march to the memorial before a well conducted service, a two minute silence was observed after the Last Post before the wreath laying led by The Right Worshipful the lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull and Admiral of the Humber the **Honourable Councillor Lynn Petrini, Gary Coe** laid for this association. After this we stood down for a welcome buffet and a chance to meet with the dignities.

**Armistice Day** at the Hull Cenotaph saw a dozen 299 Association men attend this service, our standard was paraded again by **Tony Irwin**. The service was spoilt somewhat by the noise generated because of the intensity of traffic roaring by, gone are the days when silence was observed for this occasion at all costs. Good to see **Major Chris Wilcock**.

**Tony Irwin** has to be thanked by all in this association, this man takes care of our Achieves and is also our principal standard bearer, and if that's not enough he parades our association standard as a part of the CESA organisation (Combined Ex-Servicemen Association) volunteering to parade at any funeral needing a military slant, thus promoting the Squadron & Association throughout the area, and people do take notice, he also volunteers with others to work at the 'Hull Peoples' Museum.

This is the guy that will put a poppy cross on your grave every year after your time has come, and you may have never spoken to him in your life, his dedication to this association will never be equalled, Whilst I was visiting in the Eastern Cemetery in Hull the other day I looked up the grave of **S/Sgt / WO2 Stan Robinson (1950's - 70's)** and the 299 poppy cross read "The Boss from 299 Association" Job well done.

**Pete Robson** stepped in for **Tony** on Remembrance Sunday allowing him to march with the lads, many thanks **Peter**.

It has to be a big thank you to **Dave & Pauline Meekin** who donated a special limited edition of 22 SAS Port Wine in its own presentation case complete with an assortment of SAS paraphernalia, bidding was keen led by **Kev. Saddington** with it going to **Martin Saddler** at £500, most of this cash will go into the association's charity 'Fighting Fund' for when it is needed.

The **Meekin's** have been stalwarts and valued supporters of this association over many years, and are also long time volunteers at The Hull People's Museum.

**Hinsey, Weldo and Glenn** did a sterling job of selling the tickets for this well planned raffle, assisted by Weldo's two little granddaughters. Well done to all, it went so well, I've heard **Dave Hines** has since taken a job as a bingo caller.

**Left over prizes.** We couldn't do all the prizes, not enough time and we needed the table for the buffet, therefore it's planned to do another raffle at the AGM in May 2022. These prizes are stored in **Weldo's** bungalow and were checked in by the committee.

A big thank you to **Tony Foster** for some brilliant photos, this man never lets us down.

**Just a note about the Arnhem deposits, this association cannot give our bank details to the world, for obvious reasons.**

**Dave Rutter:** the 299 Association received some good coverage in the last AEA Journal before it goes on line. I would like to thank the editor **Dave Rutter** for all his hard work over the years and always calling us by our true name '**The 299 Association**'. Well done **Dave**, what are you going to do with all your spare time mate?

**Matters arising:**

**Association Plagues** for sale (approx.£35), if anyone wants one, we are getting one put up in this room behind me, thanks to Land lord & Land Lady (**Lee & Charlotte**).

**New batch of association rugby shirts are due to be completed around the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

**Call for help** at the 'Airben' No 1 Appin Close, Grampian way, off Lothian way, North Brandsholme.

**Santa's Grotto, 10:00hrs on 8<sup>th</sup> December. (Many hands welcome)**  
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**Items from members:**

Bud Oldfield kindly brought a collage entitled 'Wings of the World' Para wings from many countries and offered it up for auction and it finally went to Dave Hines for £160. More cash for the coffers, many thanks to them both  
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**Simbos striptease bus Stop:** one winner this month, Frank (Bud) Pougher with knickers, a sight to behold.

**Web site address:** [www.299association.co.uk](http://www.299association.co.uk)

**Next Meeting: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in the Minerva, kick off 20:00 hrs.**

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

**On behalf of the 299 Association committee we would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year. All the very best to you all.**  
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**Dates for your diary:**

**131 75<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Reunion – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022**

To take place at the Lonergan Lines, Kingsbury on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April with the gates opening at 13:00 hrs, parking and accommodation will be available for those in need. Assisted transport is being sourced at this very moment and final details will be released nearer the time.

**ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2022**

**15<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> September 2022, all details to follow for the people going on this trip.**

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13th NOV. 2022, 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:

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## 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](mailto:veteranshub@goodwintrust.org)





**The 299 Association Remembrance Sunday 2021**

