



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: 5th February 2016

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, D. French, C. Gadd, A. Grimes, D. Harvey, D. Hines, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, J. Mace, O.A. Nelson-Girchen, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, K. Russell, C. Shillito, P. Sims, J.C. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, A. Weldon,, C. Wilcock, D. Woollas.

Apologies: Mike. Tindle, F. Gray, P. Robinson, C. Woodward, J. Brooks, A. Daniels, J. Duffy, C. Duggan, R. Franklin, C. Henrickson, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, C. Lickiss, M. Maddison, L. Smith, J. Thompson, B. Steele, R. Able.

Guests: M. (Ozzy), Holdsworth, J. Philips, B' ham branch of the AEA.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The acting Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened a very well attended meeting, including some of our special friends from the Birmingham Branch of the AEA. There are no exclusions at 299 Association meetings, we are open to all interested parties bearing good intent.

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

Proposed by – **T. Cunningham.**

Seconded by – **K. Robinson.**

Treasure's Report:

Martin brought the meeting up to date with the associations' current bank details and reminded the people going on the Normandy trip that full payment has to be made by the next meeting on **Friday March 4th 2016.**

Correspondence:

The AEA Secretary **Jimmy Hill** broke the sad news of the death of **John Baker**, a former 9 Squadron man who served during the 90's, he died on Monday 25th January 2016 and his funeral arrangements were sent to most members, our sympathy's go out to his friends and family.

N/B: note from **Chris Shillito**, he kindly asks if you could all acknowledge his meeting message reminder, just so he knows you have received, OK would be suffice.

Message from “**Bunny Brown**” and the Birmingham Branch of the AEA. The Birmingham Branch are hosting the AGM/Reunion this year again, and hoped to book the venue at **Bosworth Hall**, but because of problems arising they have had to revert back to last year's venue at **The Royal Court Hotel, Keresley, Coventry**. For booking forms: accommodation, prices and options see the Secretary: **Gary Coe**, (refer to dates for your diary).

The Scottish Branch Minutes 17th January 2016 has been sent out to all members who can receive, these minutes include a very important **e-petition**, (electronic petition), which is directly relevant to many 299 Association members and all of you men who served in Aden/Radfan with 131 Para. Eng. Reg. during 1965. For those of you without computers I quote:

“Recognise the Sacrifice made by TA Soldiers in 1965 Aden/Radfan”

In 1965 members of 300 Parachute Squadron, 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment TA deployed to Aden and Radfan. Men were killed and wounded in an attack by dissidents on their camp in the Radfan. The men of 131 readily volunteered to serve in this theatre, however, they have never been recognised for their service by receiving their GSM, (General Service Medal)!

Please sign the Petition.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petition/114410>

I therefore urge you all to play your part in trying to rectify this outrageous stance taken by the Medal department in not even acknowledging the fact that 131 took part in operations within the Radfan during 1965, the body of **SSM, John Lonergan** of 300 Squadron buried out there in the military Cemetery seems to be of little consequence. Please encourage your friends and families to take part in this petition, **the numbers are needed for questions to be raised in Parliament**.

Arnhem Pilgrimage: 15th – 19th September 2016

Simon Hawksley our tour operator has struggled in finding a city centre hotel to accommodate our numbers, we have therefore opted for our tried and tested hotel over many years, If you want to reserve your place on this Pilgrimage a £50 non-refundable deposit is required ASAP, again it's on a first come first served basis and the total cost is £260p/p.

The Hotel Address: **Fletcher Hotel, Doorwerth-Arnhem**

Kabeljauwallee 35

6865 BL Doorwerth, the Netherlands.

Tel: +31 (0)31 73 19010

E. info@fletcherhoteldoorwerth.nl

To finalise the numbers for this trip, deposits are needed by the next meeting, **Friday 4th March 2016**, therefore please let our Treasurer, **Martin** know your intentions. **As with all our excursions, everybody is responsible for their own personal welfare, it is in your own interest to seek travel insurance to meet the unexpected, cancelations and accidents, etc. There is no blanket insurance cover because you are a member of this association or through our affiliation with the AEA, and there never has been.**

Sqn News:

299 Squadrons 2IC **Capt. J.C.Thompson** gave a brief update on the current state of the Squadron, 299 continue to set the bench mark for reservist's recruitment and retention, 1 Troop (Hull) has doubled in size with 40 + fully trained men at their disposal. The Squadron continues to offer engineering support to the regular Army with men actively deployed in the Sinai military zone at this present time. The Squadron scored huge successes in the Army's X country championships. The current **OC Major Brad Hardwick** is due to leave the Squadron in April this year.

Chairman's Comments:

Acting Chairman **Chris Shillito** congratulated **Craig Gadd** after he had been selected to receive **The Judges Special Recognition Award for the Invictus Games Foundation**, this is where the Armed Forces received honours at the Sun's sponsored Military Awards ceremony, "The Millies" Held at the Guildhall London, televised on Sunday 24th January at 19.00hrs on Forces TV (Sky) 264 / Virgin 277 / Free sat 652 / forces. tv). May well be run on terrestrial TV later on in the year.



The day had started off with all the nominees assembled at a reception held at 10 Downing Street hosted by the prime minister's wife Samantha Cameron and Defence Secretary Michael Fallon. **Craig** stated it was a great day and an honour to represent Team Invictus at yet another award ceremony.

For more info go to Ministry of Defence: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence>

The AEA Reunion/AGM and Gala Dinner for 2017.

The above request for this association to host the above was presented by the President of the AEA **Lt Col (Retd) John Lee**, the subject had been discussed at the last meeting with a vote for or against 299 hosting this event to take place at this meeting.

After further debate the question to host was put to the members, this was proposed by **P. Robson** and seconded by **A. Irwin** the motion was carried unanimously, therefore 299 Association will host the above in 2017.

Major C. Wilcock has kindly volunteered to head a team; an alternative committee of association members for the organization and running of this Gala Dinner event, thus relieving the work load from the associations standing committee, and for this we must thank him, anybody wishing to be involved must inform **Chris** ASAP. All help welcomed. The volunteers so far are as follows: **Chris Wilcock, Paul Sims, Craig Gadd and Dean Ideson** and we thank them all for their commitment to this association.

Items from members: I have spoken to **Col. Woodward's wife Marion**, she wishes you all to know the following: **Colin** has had his essential surgery on his alimentary canal, but is still struggling with food intake, he has been referred to a specialist dietician in an attempt to stimulate his hunger response which has been restricted over the past few months, and he is actually suffering from malnutrition, a massive weight loss can be observed and it may take some time in getting him up to strength, could be a case of little and often with the food. The association wishes **Colin, Marion & family** all the strength needed in coping with this persistent health issue and are ready to stand on if & when needed, (a card was passed around the meeting for all to sign).

Matters arising:

The acting Chairman made a general enquiry as regards attending the Kingsbury Barracks for the renaming ceremony on Tuesday 12th April 2016, (see dates for your diary), anybody really interested please contact the committee. The obvious problem is it falls in the middle of the week, at least 2 days leave required by you workers, also 18 from this association leave for Normandy on the 14th April, this could be cutting it fine. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Dave Harvey: Willies lad, proudly announced that he will be on the Radio Humberside at 12 noon on Sunday 7th February with a selection of his memories of him backing many of the famous groups over the last 40 years, we all know **Dave** is an excellent drummer, I can remember him before he was famous, in his skiffle group at St. Hilda's youth club way back in the early sixties and he just got better and better, congratulations **Dave**, although I think you've enjoyed every minute of it.

This week's Bus Stop winner is Les Ransom, says he could be over doing it with the sherry again!

Let's not forget the Lord Mayors Charity appeal fund:

We have received flyers for three more events:

Charity Race Evening, Thursday 25th February – 7.30pm at the Guildhall, Tickets £6 includes pie, chips & peas supper.

**24th Annual Quiz Night, Competing for the Trevor Stark Memorial Trophy, Wednesday 9th March, 7.30 start at the Guildhall.
Tickets £6p/p (6 to a team) and includes pie, chips & peas supper.**

An Evening of Clairvoyance with Lesley Moreno Wednesday 23rd March at 7.30pm in the Guildhall, Tickets £5p/p.

All Tickets available from the Civic Office 01482 615093.

Remember the Lord Mayor steps down in May of this year, surely we can help support these final few events as a token gesture, thus making it a good year for the charity appeal fund, and helping ourselves at the same time!

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: to be held in the "Minerva" on Corporation Pier, Hull at 20.00hrs on Friday 4th March 2016.

Dates for your diary:

Renaming of Kingsbury Barracks: Tuesday 12th April 2016, Renamed as the "Loneran Lines" in memory of SSM Loneran killed in action whilst attending camp at Al Milah, Aden in 1965.

Normandy Trip: 14th – 19th April 2016, timings to be confirmed.

Arnhem Pilgrimage: 15th – 19th September 2016.

AEA Reunion/AGM 2016. The Royal Court Hotel, Keresley, Coventry. Friday 14th October – Monday 17th October. Booking forms can be obtained from the Secretary and will also be included in the next edition of the AEA Journal.

Remembrance Sunday: 13th November 2016.

