



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 3rd February 2017.

Members Present N. Arksey. M Beardshaw. G Beaumont. B Bilton. K Blacker B. Bridges. J Cherry.

G. Crumb T Cunningham. N Cooper. A Foster R Franklin C Ham. D Hines. A Irwin. D Ideson. A Lee. M Maddison. J Mace. F Pougher. D Meeking. P Robson. L Ransom. C Shillito. P Sims. L Smith. R Swatman. M Tindle. C Wilcock. A Weldon. B Young

Apologies: Gary Coe. Tony Costello William Drayton. David Mace. Keith Farr Andy Green Adam Garforth. Tony Grimes Fred Gray Dave Harvey Syd Hoyle Chris Duggan John Thompson. Glenn Ratten. Keith Robinson. Paul Robinson Arthur Stimpson Carl Henrickson Dave Woolas Terry Walker

Guests:

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman Chris Shillito welcomed all present then opened the meeting It was nice to see Norman Arksey and Brian Young back after a long absence,

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

Proposed by : Lee Smith

Seconded by : Pete Robson

Treasure's Report: Our Treasurer Martin Tindle gave an update on the 299 Association Funds which are in a very healthy state. Martin does a great job looking after our accounts and funds he also oversees the Arnhem trip every year. He is a brilliant asset to our Association. He informs us there are 35 deposits in for Arnhem already it looks like a good trip this year. We now have a fixed price of £290.

Correspondence:

VERY SAD NEWS BILL RUDD PASSED AWAY AT 0100HRS ON THE 28TH JANUARY, THIS MAN WAS A LEGEND IN THE ROYAL ENGINEERS, HE SERVED IN 9 SQUADRON AND 59 COMMANDO, Most of the older members will remember him from the Arnhem trips and some from serving with him, HE WILL BE SADLY MISSED, R I P Bill. Our Secretary Gaz Coe has sent condolences to the family on behalf of the 299 Association.

HIS FUNERAL WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE RIPON CATHEDRAL ON THE 10TH FEBRUARY 2017 there will be a short burial service after the church followed by a wake at the Ripon Spa Hotel. There are a few members attending the funeral.

Roy Hatch an old friend of 299, Ex 144 Para Field Ambulance has invited the 299 Association to partake in a Normandy Battlefield tour, Run by the Bedworth branch of the Parachute Regimental Association. For coach, Ferry, and Hotel, 4 nights B+B price will be £260 wives and girlfriends are invited, Dates are 25th to the 29th July. Although we did Normandy last year if anyone is interested get in touch with Gaz Coe.

Email from Captain Olaf Dudley Concerning the 70th Anniversary of 131.

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Dear All,

I hope you are all well. As some of the key contacts I have for the associations and networks that exist around the 131 family I am writing to update you all on 131's 70th anniversary this year. I will follow up with a Veterans' e-Bulletin to the wider group in the next day or so.

2017 finds 131 Cdo Sqn with a number of commitments which mean that we simply cannot host the type of event which was held for the 60th at Kingsbury, and for the 50th in Weymouth. These include hosting a group of US Marine Corps Reservists who will be coming to share their annual camp with us in the summer, the mobilisation of around 15% of the Sqn's strength for operations over the year, and the need to directly support our parent unit, 24 Cdo, who are without doubt the most committed regiment in the Corps.

All of these are hugely positive opportunities, and they are of course the reason why people join and remain in 131! However, they mean that we need to use other events for integrating our serving members and the wider regiment with the formal veterans' associations and informal networks that give such strength to the 131 family. By doing this, we can offer many more opportunities to share time together, rather than one 'big bang' 10-yearly event that some will inevitably be unable to attend. Linking in with 24 Cdo Engr Regt wherever possible also allows us to further build on existing relationships, and embed 131 even more fully into the regiment, which is where 131's future firmly lies.

I have laid out the current list of planned social events which will allow us to celebrate the 70th anniversary together this year, and the pattern of these will endure into the future.

Friday 28 April - Army v Navy Rugby pre-match social at Lonergan Lines, Kingsbury (this is not purely for those going to the rugby game - all serving and ex-members are welcome).

- 10-11 June - two-yearly Commando Engineer Reunion at Chivenor, near Barnstaple (a full weekend of activity and a brilliant opportunity to get a big cohort of 131 personnel involved, courtesy of 24 Cdo Engr Regt. This is being organised by RSM 24 Cdo, who is himself an ex-131 sapper, as is SSM 54 Cdo Sqn!).
- Saturday 1 July - the ACREOA Summer Cocktail Party at Minley for members of our officers' association.
- October (dates tbc) - the respective AGMs and Dinners of the Commando Engineer Branch of the REA and the AEA.

- Sunday 12 November - Remembrance Sunday events around the current and former 131 locations. Some of these are already pretty massive occasions, such as the ones in Hull and Plymouth, and we will build on these in the current Sqn locations.
- There are of course also the more locally based activities hosted by the Cdo Engr Branch of the REA, the AEA branches, the 299 Association and Commando Veterans' Association, all of which offer even more opportunities to celebrate and develop our existing ties, as well as to forge new relationships. We do understand that some people prefer a certain type of event, or are restricted in how far they can travel.
- I would be really grateful for your help in supporting attendance at the main events listed above. We realise that many have looked for a one-off big 70th event this year, but by opening up more
- Olaf Dudley 07917750413.
- opportunities like this it will widen our links, grow our membership and encourage us to do more together, more often, and not just once a decade!
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- With thanks for all your service to the Corps and to each other, in the past, the present and into the future!

MEMBERS if you fancy any of the above events please let your Committee Know.

(Marine A) Alexander Blackman.

The Association has voted to support Alexander Blackman (Marine A) in his bid for freedom. A Mini Bus has been laid on for the 8 th of February 2017 for a trip to London to join like/minded people in support of his cause. There is expected to be in the region of 800 to a 1000 ex Royal Marines other arms and civilian supporters there which shows the strength of feeling amongst the population. We have nine people travelling to London and will be joined by our 299 Association Southern connection Derek French. We have a 17-seater mini bus so if anyone wants to join us get in touch with Chris Shillito on 07877277288 all welcome. Chris Shillito And Alan Lee will be sharing the driving.

Sqn News:

Ssgt Carl Ham gave a brilliant presentation on the 299 Parachute Squadron training and Deployments using the large screen Television in our room at the Minerva. There is lots of Opportunities for our lads to train and deploy with 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) they always need extra men which can only be good for 299.
A big thank you to Carlos.

Social Calendar: Falklands / Norland Memorial service, Holy Trinity Church, Hull. Sunday 28th May 2017

Chairman's Comments:

The 299 Association Has been very busy of late, Whether doing tasks for charity or supporting different events, The attendances have been outstanding which is a credit to you all, Its only a couple of hours a month so keep it up because an Association is only as good as its members.

On doing the minutes this month it brings to light the work our Secretary actually does for us. Our minutes are always prompt and full of information, He keeps us in contact with countless other organisations, and never shirks a responsibility, believe me with what him and his family have been through recently most men would have folded long ago. We are very lucky to have a guy who gives this kind of commitment to the Association, These minutes I am doing have been prepared by Gary before he left for a well earned holiday even down to addressing the envelopes we send to members who do not have computers.

A big thank you to Simbo for organising the two bus stops every week which keeps our funds high so we don't need to pay subs as well as Sharing Standard Bearing duties with Tony Irwin our Standard Bearer and Archivist. Well done both of you.

I would like to thank our webmaster Dave Hines for standing in as Secretary at the last meeting another great asset to the Association.

Matters arising: One of our members Tony Costello has been suffering with Vertigo which has stopped him from driving and not being able to attend the meetings, We wish him a speedy recovery.

Syd Hoyle one of our members is recovering from a hip replacement operation. He is still going to Bill Rudds Funeral. It goes to show you can't keep a good man down. Well done Syd.

Items from members: The lucky bus stop winner this week was Mike Beardshaw (I heard him say About time Ha Ha)

Web site address: www.299association.com

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Next Meeting: will be on the 3rd of March 2017

Dates for your diary: __ ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE : Thursday 14th to Monday 18th September 2017. 35 places taken already get your deposits in to secure a place.

The only sure way of guaranteeing a place on this trip is by placing a £50 deposit with MARTIN our treasurer, The list will be closed when the coach is full.

Change of date of date of AEA reunion /. Now Saturday the 21st October 2017

THE AEA REUNION/ AGM TO BE HELD AT THE MERCURE HULL ROYAL HOTEL, FERENSWAY, HULL, HU1 3UF over the weekend Friday the 20th to Monday the 23rd of October 2017.

The Dinner and AGM will take place on Saturday the 21st October 2017. A room has been booked for the AGM.

We have gone firm on the Hotel and Date, Deposit has been taken. Details will follow very soon

Remembrance Sunday: 12th of November 2017.

With nothing more to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting thanking the members for their attendance.

Chris Shillito.
Acting Secretary.
299 association.

