



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 February 2018 at the Minerva

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, K. Blacker, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, C. Duggan, C. Gadd, D. Harvey, D. Hines, S. Hoyle, A. Irwin, T. James, P. Jefferson, A. Kitching, A. Lee, C. Lickiss, J. Mace, M. Maddison, D. Meekin, K. Millington, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, K. Russell, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, L. Smith, B. Steele, A. Stimson, Capt. J. C. Thompson, C. Walker, A. Weldon, Major C. Wilcock, M. Williams.

Apologies: F. Gray, J. Duffy, M. Holdsworth, Mart. Tindle, R. Franklin, G. Beaumont, J. Brooks, D. French, C. Ham, G. Newton, R. Swatman, J. Thompson, Mart. Tindle.

Guests: The two ladies: Mrs Millington & Sarah, (Wilcock).

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed everybody to this very well attended meeting (42) + two guests, brilliant effort considering the weather, he made special reference to the Squadron lads just back from South Sudan, Op 'TRENTON' but delivered the very sad news that **John Thompson's** mother has just died and we join together in offering our sincere condolences to **John** and the rest of the family, he sends his apologies which have been recorded, and it goes without saying that this association's support is always in place.

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

Proposed by – **Dave Harvey**

Seconded by – **Frank Pougher**

Treasure's Report: Our Treasurer; **Martin Tindle** has gone missing, he was last seen buying a ticket for that infamous Penal Colony of Australia, and this is all very worrying. Stepping into the breach for this meeting we have to thank **Glenn Ratten**, who is well known for his firm grasp on all financial matters. Yet again we have to thank our web master **Dave Hines** for the manufacture of more association calendars and car window transfers which sell like 'hot cakes' and significantly add to our funds.

Correspondence: relevant incoming since the last meeting.

John Duffy: message Bd, 9/1/2018. I would like to thank all 299 for thinking of **Fay**, she is having a bad time of it at the moment, and we have to keep our fingers crossed and look forward. Thank you all again.

Chris Shillito: message Bd, 12/1/2018. To **John Duffy;** We at 299 Association have missed you at the meetings and know that you and **Fay** are going through difficult times. We wish you all the very best and give **Fay** our love, we are thinking of you both.

Capt. Stuart Jordan: E- mail, 17/1/2018. Further to my previous email, (Informal Celebratory Evening at Kingsbury on the 24/2), we are pleased to extend the function to include a `Welcome Home` for members of 131 that are currently completing their tour of South Sudan with the UN on Op `TRENTON`

We have now received acceptance from former members of 131 spanning the years from 1960's right up to the current period, and we would like you to be there with us for what promises to be a great evening with friends old and new.

Tony Costello: E-mail, 24/1/2018. Titled: Death in the Brotherhood

I am sorry to have to report the death on January 17th of **Trevor Wright**, who at one time was the Secretary of the Hull Branch of the PRA. His funeral service will be held at St. Nicolas Church, Hessle at 11.00hrs on Thursday, February 8th 2018. He was 91 years old and served with the 13th Battn in the Far East and with the 3rd Battn in Palestine.

I was his assistant clerk in HQ Coy in Haifa. Whilst other Corporals taught how to change mag's on the Bren, Trevor taught me how to change the ribbon on an Imperial typewriter. He always recited the Airborne Prayer at the funerals of deceased comrades and he will be sadly missed.

Chris Shillito: message Bd, 25/1/2018. cls299@hotmail.co.uk

Gentlemen, anyone interested in going to **Olaf Dudley's** leaving night February 24th 2018 at Kingsbury, London, Please contact me on Mob: 07877277288 or reply to the email above. We need numbers for transport, feeding and accommodation. Thanks.

Terry Cunningham: message Bd, 27/1/2018. Welfare check on our Doncaster members.

Hi lads, here are update on **Nev. Smales**, he is waiting for his Op, things are healing up well, (earlier surgery), with very little seepage from the tubes he's got in, he is on the priority list, but the surgeon who is tending him, is himself in `dock` having the same Op that he is waiting for. While we were on the phone together we had a good laugh about things which shows how much he's picked up in himself.

Bud Oldfield sends his regards to all, he is more or less back to normal. He went to see **John Davis** last week end, **John's** not very good at all, and he is struggling in comprehending things that are said to him.

News from Scotland, via John Donaldson: taken from the minutes of their last meeting on Sunday 21 January 2018.

I have selected transcript from these minutes which may well generate interest within this association, these are the words of **Gil Nicol**, Secretary to the Scottish Branch of the AEA.

"On the 20th December 2017 **John Donaldson** was invited to the Scottish Parliament for a meeting with **Maurice Corry MSP** for the Conservative Party who has responsibility for Defence and Veterans, **John** spoke with **Mr Corry** for an hour and gave him a summary of what occurred in Aden/Radfan when 131 Para Engr Regt were deployed there in 1965, during which time 300 Para Sqn RE came under attack resulting in two killed in action and five others wounded. **Maurice Corry** is of the opinion that those members of 131 who served in Aden should have received the GSM with Clasp South Arabia. **Mr Corry** has written a letter to the **Rt. Hon Gavin Williamson**, The new Secretary for Defence, to that effect. We await his reply"

N/B: The GSM (General Service Medal), Clasp South Arabia saga rolls on, `no British Government can ever be seen to be in the wrong`

"**Memorial Site at Cromwell Lock; Alex Cockburn** has been in contact with the RBL Newark, and they have informed us "The Memorial site is in very good condition. The area was tidy and clean. The garden soil had been turned over recently and the roses had been trimmed. The metal railings have been painted. Generally the memorial site was "winter-ready" Importantly the Canal & River staff, based at Cromwell Lock, had taken it upon themselves to voluntary service the site too and maybe others"

"**Plaque for Applecross Bridge; Mike Holdsworth** informed us all that a new plaque to replace the old wooden plaque will be placed on one of the bridges which was built in memory of the 10 Sappers of 300 Troop 131 Indep Para Sqn RE who lost their lives at Cromwell Lock on 28th September 1975"

"**N/B;** the bridges at Applecross were built in 1996 by 131 Commando Sqn RE. The bridge over the River Toscaig (Scottish Gaelic: Toghsaig) near Applecross, Wester Ross was built by 299 Troop also in their memory"

Click on link or paste link in browser to view pictures"

<http://gallery.commanoveterans.org/cdoGallery/v/laterday/Army+Commando+Sappers/299+Tp+131+Indep+Cdo+Sqn+RE+building+Toscaig+Wester+Ross++June+1996.html>

The previous link is worth looking at, thanks to **Major Olaf Dudley**, there are snaps of people in this room here tonight, and they range from the bridge building in memorial to the men killed in the Cromwell lock disaster, up to, and including operation 'Ocean Wave' where 131 Cdn Egn Sqn was supporting 40 Cdn RM.

Sqn News:

Capt. J. C. Thompson OC 1 Troop 299 Sqn, 23 Para. Eng. Regt. brought the meeting up to date with the Squadron: He welcomed his men back from Operation Trenton in South Sudan with others going out to Belize working with 51 Sqn on some construction scheme. There has been a resurgence in recruitment at 299 where 8 men of 1 Troop (Hull) have just come through selection, the parachuting is still a problem, no more courses until 2020, therefore there is a lot of 'Penguins' about, this blows a hole in the battle readiness of 23 Regt. The RAF decommissioned the C130's a little too early with the Atlas A400M not been fully operational until 2019 when there will be only one squadron fully equipped with these new aircraft: 70 Squadron RAF out of RAF Brize Norton. Is this the beginning of the end?

Social Calendar:

Informal Celebratory Evening, 24/2/2018 at Kingsbury, trip organizers **Craig Gadd**, Mob: 07974086591 & **Chris Shillito** Mob: 07877277288

OPEN INVITATION TO ALL 299 FOR THE 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF **FRANK (BUD) POUCHER**.
It's to be held at the North Ferriby Social Club, Low Street, North Ferriby, at 20.00hrs on Saturday 17th February 2018.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOT AT BEVERLEY CLAY TARGET CENTRE, Bygott Wood, Cherry Burton, Beverley, HU17 7RB
Organizer: **Tony Kitching**, Mob: 079300015184, Taking place on Sat 10th March, kick off time 10.00hrs, Dress for shooting. This is a bit of fun for all to enjoy, families & friends, all facilities on site including a café, ' (first aid post & undertakers) ' usually finishes about 2 – 3pm. Pub land lord will put a free buffet on. Total cost of shoot around £15p/p. TBC

Chairman's Comments:

Chris was pleased to announce that 40 places have already been taken up for the Arnhem Pilgrimage this year, we have reserved cabins and rooms for this number of people, places left on the ferry are few and far between, therefore any late comers may well have missed the boat, we will try and accommodate, but with no guarantees, the hotel & coach can take a few more, the problem will always be the ferry.

This association's Arnhem trips usually follow a similar format, there are certain things that the majority always wants to do, but nothing is compulsory, and everybody is free to do whatever they want. There is a lot to do & see over a very short period, especially for the first timers, a brief itinerary will be produced nearer the time. Remember this trip is significantly a pilgrimage, especially for our Arnhem veteran traveling with us again, he was one of **John Frosts**' men who fought at that dammed bridge: **Les Ransom** was taken prisoner along with the remnants of the 2nd Bttn after the bridge was overrun by the Wehrmacht during the battle in 1944.

Proposed new blazer badge; a sample badge was passed around and this led to much discussion about the colours, also questioning is the badge needed? Etc. it was decided to try the colour changes electronically, which **Dave Hines** has already achieved, thus leaving the matter open for further discussion at a later date.

Matters arising:

Dave Bowron; ex 301 Squadron is joining this association's 2018 Arnhem trip and for those of you who don't know **Davey** he's the guy who had to have both his legs surgically removed above the knees, (circulation problems I believe). The 301 Association, (Brummies') are trying to purchase a super-duper wheel chair for him, he has got the bog standard NHS one, but it has its limitations, the lads think they have secured a good, top of the range second hand one in Kings Lynn, even so, this will cost a fair amount and they are appealing to this association, and other sources for help, anything will do, a £50 whip round, whatever we collect would be gratefully received. **Davey** did not lose his legs due to injuries received whilst serving his country, he therefore misses out on the many veteran organisations that are in place to help those personnel disadvantaged due to their military service. His condition is just the rough & tumble of everyday life playing out its part, but the consequences are still the same for this ex 131 man, who was never the tallest of men with legs, but could now choose his own height if he goes for the prosthetics.

This appeal was put to the members with a proposal of £150 by **Paul Sims** to be gifted from this associations funds to help with the purchase of this chair, this was seconded by **Tony Weldon** and the vote **for** was unanimous.

Items from members:

Paul Sims (Simbo) wishes to thank 299 Association members for the many congratulatory, cards & calls he received marking his 70th birthday, also a special thanks to those who managed to get down to the EAST RIDING public house for his

**`Special karaoke night with the stars**, `they were all there` no X factor rejects on this occasion, the quality shone through every time.

Syd Hoyle passed some further information to me regarding **Trevor Wright** one of our airborne brothers who passed on 17th January 2018 as previously reported by **Tony Costello**, (see correspondence), he was an active member of the Hull Branch of the PRA, serving as the Secretary from 1989 – 2001. He served with **Tony Costello** in the 6th Airborne Division, he was a Normandy Veteran jumping in on D-day, saw further action in the Ardennes, (Battle of the Bulge), service in Singapore & Java, finishing his service in Palestine where he met **Tony**. His funeral details are in the correspondence section.

For those PRA members amongst us, the Hull branch are moving back to the New Clarence public house, meeting room upstairs. For further details ring Syd, Mob: 07967648958.

Membership forms for the Airborne Engineers Association or any other association can be obtained from the Secretary.

Bri Bilton passed on an open invitation from the Hull Bullnose Heritage Group & Stand Memorial Group for this association to take part in a Memorial Service to be held at the Hull Minster on Sunday 4th March 2018 at 2pm.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Hull Triple Trawler Tragedy: on the 11th January 1968 the first of three fishing trawlers from Hull were lost in freezing conditions during a three week period. 58 Hull men were lost at sea along with the following vessels: St Romanus, Kingston Peridot and the Ross Cleveland, this tragedy provoked changes in the safety at sea laws, thus making ship owners take greater responsibility for the safety of their crews.

Commemorations are taking place in and around Hull as follows:

11.00hrs on the 5th Feb. 2018 at Valiant Drive, Barham Road, Hull.

12.00hrs on the 5th Feb 2018 at Hessel Road, Boulevard, Hull.

Mathew Williams: reminded us all that it is exactly 4 years to the day that his father died, the Chairman asked us all to be upstanding and raise our glasses to our past friend and colleague **Bill Dick (Seadog)**.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Simbo's bus Stop: two winners this month: Dave Meekin & Pete Robbo.

Next Meeting: Friday 2nd March 2018, 20.00hrs at the Minerva, Cooperation Pier, Hull.

Dates for your diary:

BUDS BIRTHDAY BASH ON SAT, 17TH FEB, just come as you are.

INFORMAL CELEBRATORY EVENING – SAT 24TH FEB. AT KINGSBURY. Sleeping bag a must for what should be a great night, for more info talk to Gaddy or Shegs.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOT AT CHERRY BURTON free buffet at the Bay Horse for afters, talk to Kitch.

YORKSHIRE AIR MUSEUM MEMORIAL DAY: 2ND SEPT. 2018, details TBC

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2018, THURSDAY NIGHT 20TH SEPT (overnight ferry) ----- **MONDAY (morning) 24TH SEPT.**

CROMWELL LOCK MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY 30TH SEPT. 2018.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11TH NOV. 2018 details TBC.

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

