



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 1st February 2019 at the Minerva

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, D. French, C. Gadd, A. Green, J. Harrison, D. Harvey, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, J. Mace, K. Millington, P. Morris, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, S. Saxby, C. Sillito, P. Sims, R. Swatman, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, Lt. Col. C. Wilcock, A. Weldon.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, K. Russell, M. Holdsworth, A. Costello, A. Stimpson, B. Steele, T. Walker, J. Thompson, C. Henrickson, A. Foster, J. Duffy, J. Brooks, G. Beaumont, S. McMahon, K. Blacker, J. Duffy, C. Duggan, A. Foster, R. Franklin, R. Gill, S. Hoyle, D. Meekin, Capt. J. C. Thompson, A. Homan, L. Smith.

Guests: Benny Bridges, Eileen Robinson & Lesley (Daughter).

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present on this snow driven night, then opened the meeting wishing everyone present the best of health for the coming year. He offered apologies for the late cancellation of the January meeting due to last – minute, unexpected maintenance at the Minerva, hope you all received notification in time, avoiding a wasted journey.

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

Proposed by – **C. Gadd.**

Seconded by – **N. Cooper.**

Treasure's Report:

Martin gave a run down on our financial state of affairs and all is well, Arnhem money keeps rolling in.

Relevant correspondence:

Tony Kitching. Message Bd. 6/12/2018. **Councillor Harrison, (ANITA)** said big thanks to all from 299 who helped put up the Christmas fair, the kids loved it.

N/B: The above response was triggered solely because of the voluntary efforts made by unselfish people from this association, who give their time so freely for the benefit of the less fortunate children on the North Brandsholme Estate in Hull, many of us remembering our own humble beginnings, these activities reinforce this associations integrity and standing amongst the Civic dignities of this great City of Kingston Upon Hull, and at the same time fulfilling a public-spirited duty for those in need, many thanks to the members concerned, (it's usually the same people every time), remember this: "you reap what you sow" whilst giving something back to your home town, it's common knowledge that 'giving' is a positive prerequisite for your general well-being, and the association thanks you all.

Dave Hines (Web Master), Message Bd. 9/12 2018. Just to let you know I have updated the website and added a new page 'You Tube Video' I have uploaded the video taken by **Tony Foster** showing the Remembrance Day parade in Hull, plus one or two others. Merry Christmas to you all.

Ken Newton, (Former 299 CO), e-mail dated 9/12/2018. Best wishes to all 299 for Christmas & New Year, many thanks to **Terry** for the calendar & card, hope to see you all in May, (AGM).

John Donaldson, (Scotland AEA), e-mail dated 9/12/2018. Many thanks for your Nov. minutes and your mention of the GSM62 with clasp, South Arabia for former **Capt. Maclachlaine's**, it is greatly appreciated as is the continual support I have received from you and your members.
Please convey my heartfelt thanks to all your members.
I hope you and your members have a wonderful Christmas and a happy, prosperous, and above all a safe New Year.

Dave Rutter, (Editor AEA Journal), e-mail dated 10/12/2018. Congratulations on yet another busy period for 299 Association. Our final meeting, (Aldershot branch AEA), until March 2019 will be this coming Sunday! (16/12/2018), just taking a break over the bad weather period. Festive good wishes to all members of 299 Association and here's hoping for a prosperous New Year to one and each.

Mike (Ozzy) Holdsworth, e-mail dated 10/12/2018. Season's greetings to all my 299 pals.

Adam Garthorpe, Message Bd. 11/12/2018. Season's greetings to 299 Association and friends, hope you are all doing well.
Great to watch your U tube film of the 2018 Armistice Day parade in Hull just now, British ex pat's in Bulgaria got together in a patriotic way on Remembrance Day, 10 or so ex-servicemen present from around the area watched the UK TV coverage of events in the village bar, no chicken curry however. Take care all, G.

John (Willy) Harrison (Belgium), Message Bd. 11/12/2018. All the very best for Xmas and the New Year. Hope to see most of you in January. Take care.

Terry Cunningham, Message Bd. 15/12/2018. Season's greetings to all 299ers be you near or far, have a good one, see you in January, Terry.

Chris Shillito. Message Bd. 17/12/2018. Gentlemen, unfortunately the Minerva is been refurbished on our next meeting date, 4th January and I have been in touch with all the committee and we have decided to cancel the January meeting so the next meeting will be Friday 1st February 2019, sorry for any inconvenience.
On behalf of the committee we would like to wish all 299ers a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Steve Brown (Sec. Bir'ham branch AEA). Message Bd. 19/12/2018. Wishing all 299 members a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year from the boys in 'Brum' On a personal note, thanks to all for your support at our funerals in 2018, it is much appreciated. Have a great time.

John Philips (Chairman Bir'ham branch AEA). Message Bd. 21/12/2018. As per **Steve's** previous: Christmas good wishes to all 299 Association members & Families, I also send my best wishes to you all for the New Year. Take care all, Regards J.

John Donaldson, e-mail dated 21/12/2018. **Re: Medal Presentation.** The medal presentation went very well. The staff at Edinburgh Castle gave us a magnificent day. The presentation was held in the Governors Quarters which limited our numbers to 28 which included **Eoghann MacLachlainn's** family and his Member of Parliament **Angus MacNeil**. Had the Officers Mess been open, (it was closed for the festive period), we could have invited more. Having said that, they accommodated nearly everyone who wanted to be there. On arrival we were all given coffee, served by Governor of Edinburgh Castle **Major General Mike Riddell-Webster CBE DSO**. It's the first time I have been served coffee by such a high ranker.

Before the presentation, the Governors AOC, **Capt. Lawrence Wotherspoon**, read out a citation he made up from my recollections of what happened at Al Milah, after which time the general presented **Eoghann** with his GSM with Clasp South Arabia to the applause of the company.

We went out doors where my son took pictures. After the picture shoot we all went back indoors to a buffet prepared by the Governors P.A. Our new Chairman, **Gordon McLeod** presented **Mrs Sheila MacLachlainn** a bouquet of flowers. Former member of 9 Squadron **Joe Davidson** had arranged for STV to be there, only, outside the quarter, where they had interviewed **Eoghann**. It was shown on STV News later that afternoon. Gary, that about covers the story. I will send you a copy of the citation and some photographs in another e-mail.

I am presently at my daughters in Sheffield for the festive period nursing injuries I received falling down the stairs at the Waverley Station, Edinburgh on my way here, and are not too, a bad side right landing.

I hope you and your members and their respective families have a great time at Christmas and Happy New year.

Chris Shillito. Message bd. 22/12/2018. On behalf of the 299 ASSOCIATION I would like to reciprocate and wish our Birmingham ex 301 TROOP bros a very Merry Christmas & a happy New Year, we hope that it is a better year for both 299 & 301 as we lost some top guys in 2018. You will always have the support of 299 and we know we will always have yours.

Tony Foster. Message Bd. 7/1/2019 I would like to thank 299 Association for the lovely flowers that you sent to my wife **Debbie**.

N/B: Debbie had to have her arm removed a few days before Christmas, 5-6 hour operation leaving a decent part of her upper arm intact for possible prosthetic, proved to be a very difficult job due to the many associated injuries received in her road accident, she is struggling with many phantom pains, hopefully these will decrease with time, and we wish her well.

Chris Shillito. Message Bd. 7/1/2019. Very glad that Debs liked the flowers **Tony**, we all hope she gets free of pain and starts on the road to recovery.

Bud Oldfield, (Former 299 CO), Phone message 22/1/2019. Sad news from Doncaster regarding **John Davis** former Recce Sergeant 1960/70, age has got the better of him, his family have decided that **John** is now in need of 24 hour care, he is moving into a care home close to his residential address, this is handy for our Donny members to pop in for visits. The monthly newsletter will no longer be sent to him, (he's finally had enough of this drivel), but unfortunately his dementia prevents him comprehending everyday life, here's wishing him all the care & comfort for the rest of his days. Our thoughts are with the family at this very difficult time.

John Ferry (Chair AEA), forwarded through Steve Brown, (Sec. Brum). E-mail dated 23/1/2019. The sad loss of **Lt Col (Retd) Paul Scoble**, died 11/1/2019 aged 85yrs, joined the Army aged 16 (Boy entrant) serving with 9 Para Sqn in the Canal Zone, went on as an instructor with 131 Para Eng. Reg. (TA) in 44 Brigade, he did 3 years as PSI with 300 Para Sqn (Edinburgh) and was at Al Milah in the Radfan, taking part in the action fought in April 1965. He was i/c for the funeral detail for SSM **John Lonergan's**. Another stunt with 9 Sqn as QM and finally finished as QM with the Junior Leaders Reg. RE in Dover.

Chris Shillito. Message Bd. 24/1/2019. Gentlemen it is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of ex Indep. Commando Sqn. **Sgt Major Al Stewart** on Tuesday 22/1/2019 at 20:10 hrs. RIP old friend.

Olaf Dudley forwarded through Steve Brown, (Sec.Brum), E-mail dated the 24/1/2019.

Dear former members of 131, I am sorry to inform you that **Allan `AI` Stewart**, stalwart of the Commando Engineers and the last SSM of 131 Independent Commando Engineers, died last night following a long illness.

Our thoughts and prayers are, of course, with **AI's** family and friends. Will let you know more about arrangement's for the funeral and where you can send your condolences to in due course.

I've attached some nice photos of **AI** for those of you who knew him, so you can enjoy again his loyal friendship and his warm and ready smile.

Funeral details: Thursday 7thn February 2019, 13:30 hrs at Exeter Crematorium, Topsham Rd, Exeter EX2 6EU.

Andy Green. Message Bd. 28/1/2019. I have only 10 tickets left for the Charity Dinner on the 15th March, with guest speaker **Rusty Firming** who served in B Sqn. SAS for 15 years, along with a few other surprises on the evening. This is going to be a cracking night you don't want to miss.

At this stage of the proceedings we saw an intervention by Lt. Col. Chris Wilcock, who gave a run down on the military career, including the many fond memories of the late Sgt Major AI Stewart with 131 Independent Commando Engineers, the meeting raised a glass in his memory.

N/B: Apologies for the long winded correspondence section, but `no` January meeting bulked it up somewhat, remember we have approximately 30 members without computers, all active, and wanting to know what's going on.

Sqn News:

Synopsis taken from 23 Para Eng Reg, CO's address to TTLC, dated 13th December 2018' and forwarded through **Dave Rutter (Sec Aldershot AEA)**

N/B: Full copy on request.

The Headlines: The Regiment remaining close to fully manned at all times, still receiving volunteers from training and in rude health.

100% pass rate from Test Week at the last P-company for 2018, 13 through on this occasion.

Parachuting: Over 60 passed through basic Parachute course during 2018.

299 Squadron: "The capability in our Army Reserve sub unit continues to grow and there will be opportunities to get soldiers to both Afghanistan and South Sudan during 2019. Being hybrid continues to be a unique strength and the new Officer Commanding (**Major Paul Gallimore**) has great ideas of exporting their annual training event to Cyprus this year"

Social Calendar:

Charity Dinner / Dance on Friday 15th March 2019 at the Village Hotel, near Hull, HU4 7DY, (see dates for your dairy).

Chairman's Comments:

Chris brought news that **Ken Synods & Pete Grundy** from the Hull branch of the Royal British Legion in combination with the CESA organization have installed racking facilities for Association Standards at the Hull Minster, (Holy Trinity) to be used during military services, this has been confirmed by our own CESA member **Tony Irwin** at their last meeting and have requested association badging to be displayed at our allocated racking space. An association shield has been ordered and payed for from association funds, and will be installed in the not too distant future.

The Chairman broke the disturbing news that **Steve McMahon (Macca)** is back in dock again due to his same old problem, he is being supported by his friends, especially **Neal Yates**, whilst the medics try to sort out his liver. **Mac** is struggling with his addiction, and the devastating effect it has on his health, also the many personal negatives inflicted on all those around him who care. If you can spare a few minutes look him up, he is in The Hull Royal Infirmary, ward 100 – bay E, visiting times: Afternoon 14:00 – 16:00 hrs, Evening 19:00 – 20:00 hrs.

Arnhem 2019 is well on track, no drop outs as yet, we have a full coach of 58, plus a further 8 joining us for the Grand dinner on the Friday evening. I must remind you all that the full payment is needed for the May meeting (AGM), Friday the 3rd May 2019, we have people in reserve willing & able to pay for a place.

Suggestions for this year's itinerary has to come from those of you who are regular attenders, please put your ideas on paper with timings for all to agree, this is your trip therefore your responsibility.

Matters arising:

Citation: GSM with South Arabia Clasp, 16th December 2018

To former Captain Eoghann Macclachliann by Major General Mike Riddell-Webster CBE DSO (Governor of Edinburgh Castle).

Captain Eoghann Macclachliann was deployed to Aden on 1st April 1965 as part of 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment (TA), tasked with making road improvements to the main supply route running from Aden to Dhala in the North. Captain Macclachliann was serving in 300 Para Sqn RE (the Scottish Squadron), numbering around 90 strong at this time.

In the early hours of Monday 12th April 1965, while based in a camp near the village of Al Milah, along with 24 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, 300 & 24 Sqns came under prolonged and accurate small arms and mortar fire from a nearby ridge.

The dissidents were eventually driven off by a combination of browning machine guns mounted on Ferret armoured cars and by individuals firing from the camp sangars. During the firefight, **Sergeant Major John Lonergan** of 300 Para Sqn and **Sergeant Atfield**, Royal Army Pay Corps attached to 24 Sqn, were killed.

Captain Macclachlainn & Sgt George Gibson Earl, both from 300 Para Sqn, were among 5 others seriously wounded.

Whilst those serving in 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment were not in theatre long enough to be awarded the GSM with South Arabia clasp, **Captain Macclachlainn's** injuries under these circumstances means he qualifies to be presented with the medal, as has now been recognised by the MOD Medal Office.



53 years in the making

Items from members: many thanks for one large box of foot powder curtesy of **Paul Sims (Simbo)**.

Simbos bus Stop: One winner this month **Terry Cunningham**

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: to be held at the Minerva, Nelson St, Victoria Pier on Friday 1st March 2019.

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

Dates for your diary: "Always a little further"

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 £45 p/p, prices & timings to be confirmed later via our point of contact Andy Green, phone Mb: 07967771561. Good deals on offer at the hotel, must ask for them. Reservations Phone No 01482 427110.

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 necessary ex-military, using personnel, possessing 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.

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.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11TH NOV. 2018, 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:

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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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

