



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: January 2nd 2015

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The chairman welcomed a well attended meeting by wishing everybody present the very best for the coming year; names were taken and apologies read out, all to be recorded into the records.

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

Proposed by – T. Cunningham

Seconded by – A. Irwin

Treasure's Report: Martin informed the meeting that our funds are still healthy; he has started to collect the Arnhem pilgrimage deposits, please be aware that a £30 non-refundable deposit will secure a place on this trip, the final cost will depend upon the total numbers interested. These numbers are needed as soon as possible for booking purposes, thank you.

Correspondence:

B. Oldfield; That ex Troop CO and long serving 299 man from Doncaster, "Bud" Oldfield has made contact with the association. He has been receiving the minutes from the meetings over the past 2 years and thanks us for keeping him informed of all our activities and events, he asks to be remembered, also pass's on his best wishes to us all, he threatens to walk through that door at the Minerva one meeting night because he's now firing on two new hips and is raring to go, we better start getting the drinks in!

He went on to congratulate the men from this association for standing firm on what proved to be a difficult period, and is immensely proud of our achievements, he made a special mention of Bill Drayton for volunteering to take the Chair in a time of need, and is pleased to see the association heading in the right direction.

"Bud" gave an update on all the "Donny" lads, and unfortunately like the rest of us, age is taking its toll, with many of them no longer with us.

He sends his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and very kindly enclosed a cheque for £100 to the association for the members to spend as they wish," and enjoy" I have sent a letter of thanks and Seasons Greetings to Bud on behalf of this association and we all hope to see him soon.

J. Lee, (AEA President); had sent best wishes to all our members for Christmas and the New Year and thanks 299 for its contribution to the various commemorative events held during 2014, "our attendance had been very well received by the AEA"

Fred Gray's book "Airborne Engineer's" 9 Squadron's history 1948 to 1984 and may be ordered from:

Fred Gray, 65 Westover Rd. Fleet, Hants, GU51 3DE

Email: f.gray@nthworld.com priced @ £16.95 plus £2.80 P&P for the UK, prices for outside the UK on application to Fred.

Social Calendar:

- a) Another trip to RAF Coningsby, (Battle of Britain Flight), has been requested from the floor, dates and times to follow.
- b) A walkabout week end is to be planned for sometime in May, dates and times to follow.
- c) Clay Pigeon shoot depending on support, dates and times to follow.

Chairman's Comments:

The Chairman opened up a discussion about the Charter composed by Bill Dick during 2002. He asked for a vote for its inclusion back into the association minutes, this was agreed by all present; therefore this Charter **NOW** forms the basis on which this association stands for, and must never be disregarded again.

Bill proceeded to give a welfare report on some of our members;

Frank (Bud) Pougher; has had to face massive surgery to the neck and is currently recovering on a high dependency ward at the Castle Hill Hospital, Cottingham.

John Duffy; knee problems relating to the after effects of replacement surgery.

Olly Girchen; recovering at home after a spell in hospital with a severe bout of Pneumonia suffered over the Christmas Period.

Graham Beaumont; in desperate need of major heart surgery; enduring all the uncertainty and debilitation that this entails.

Les Ransom; struggling to shake off the effects of Bronchitis again.

The Chairman endorsed all our thoughts and prays for those amongst us that are currently struggling with health issues.

Items from members:

Dean Ideson (Deano) has produced an excellent piece of work regarding this association Arnhem Pilgrimage 2014. He produced this script to be included into the Humberside Police Journal and I can recommend it for a read; he has plenty of copies. I will encourage him to send a copy to Dave Rutter, the AEA Journal editor.

Tony Irwin (Archivist); requests any photos and documentation to add to the Archives.

Before closing Bill Drayton thanked everybody for attending what again proved to be a very enjoyable meeting.

Next Meeting: Friday the 6th February 2015 at 20.00hrs in the "Minerva" Corporation Pier, Hull.

Dates for your diary:

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2015

The duration of our annual pilgrimage to Arnhem will be decided by you the members and will be arranged around Saturday 19th Sept.

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Wreath Laying at Cromwell Lock

It is the 40th Anniversary of the Cromwell Lock disaster which took place on the **Trent Chase exercise of 1975**; this will be held at the lock on; **Sunday 27th September 2015**: "further details to follow"

N/B; Please note anybody wishing for another trip, Normandy etc will have to generate interest through the meetings to make it worthwhile.