



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 8th January 2016.

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, C. Duggan, R. Franklin, D. French, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, C. Lickiss, J. Mace, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, C. Shillito, P. Sims, L. Smith, B. Steele, Mart. Tindle, Mike. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock.

Apologies: J. Duffy, F. Gray, C. Gadd, C. Henrickson, C. Woodward, G. Beaumont, D. Woollas, R. Swatman, J. Thompson, J.C.Thompson, P. Robinson, M. Maddison.

Guests: Benny. Bridges, Mally. Tindle.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The acting Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting by wishing all present a Happy & Healthy New Year.

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

Proposed by – **F. Pougher**

Seconded by – **S. Hoyle**

Treasure's Report: **Martin** brought us up to date with our banking details and reminded all that tonight is the deadline for the Normandy deposits.

Correspondence: nothing to declare on this front, but a short discussion took place with regards to the AEA request for this association's involvement during 2017 in the hosting and the organization of their REUNION/AGM, all this is to be voted on at the next meeting, a few points were made from the floor which needed clarification, with all members needing to be clear in their own minds even if abstention is their choice on the day.

Christmas Charity Party at the Guild Hall, Hull



Courtesy of D. Hines

11/12/2015

Tony Kitching, Lord Mayor of Hull, Tony Weldon

A Christmas party with a difference took place on Friday 11th December at the Lord Mayors Parlour in the Guild Hall, Hull.

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull and Admiral of the Humber, Councillor Anita Harrison, Hosted this charity event with all members of this association been invited as guests. Over 70 tickets were sold to 299, friends and families, almost everybody enjoyed the evening by keeping in mind; that the over ridding purpose of the evening was to raise monies for charity, and thanks, mainly to you people, this is what happened, not only by your presence at the event but the magnificent volume and quality of prizes donated, this was a splendid effort by everyone and again the committee thanks you all for your support. **Tony Kitching** bravely took over the role of Master of ceremonies and despite his nervousness he did a fine job, and we must thank him for this.

The entertainers generously gave their time for NOTHING, and consisted of a female vocalist "Chrissy" who brought the house down with her full bodied renditions of many popular classics, also a variety/comedy female dance group from TV's X factor fame called "Ruby Red" These girls got all tackled up and made the night for many an old 299er, I believe this act alone was responsible for a few later problems at various care homes in and around the city.!!!!

299 Association took advantage of this occasion for various presentations of their own, **Tony Kitch** introduced **Les Ransom**, "our Arnhem Vet" to all present, and he was well received, also pictured above with the Lord Mayor we have **Tony Weldon & Tony Kitching**, who both presented cheques from this association to the appeal fund, this was money raised; individually as in **Tony Weldon's** case, through sponsorship for his annual Nijmegen marches with the Dutch, and/or his various half marathons throughout the year, his contributions were welcomed, this was a brilliant individual effort; **Tony Kitching** organised the Clay Pidgeon Shoot which we all enjoyed, he was ably supported by **Stef. Hines** who organized the raffle and of course you the members for supporting the event and helping to raise the coffers of the Mayors charity appeal fund, therefore it's a well done all round.

The Lord Mayor went on to present a statue of an Airborne Soldier, (Fred), to **Gary Coe** for outstanding service to this association, as voted for by its members, he thanked all, and considers it a real privilege to be a part of such an organization, where friendships and respect for each other is paramount, and as in all cases, this always stand the test of time.

NORMANDY TRIP 2016

We will be leaving on Thursday 14th April for Portsmouth in time to catch the overnight ferry to Ouisteham, this is the nearest port for Caen. We will be staying in a good 3 star hotel on the Caen ring road in close proximity to the Allies Memorial. The hotel has a swimming pool and we will be on a bed & Breakfast arrangement.

Simon, our tour operator has sketched out a flexible itinerary to keep everybody happy and will amend to meet our needs, there is a limit in what can be seen on this short trip, but he suggests we try and include the following: The Bayeux Tapestry and the large British Cemetery close by, the British/Canadian beaches of Juno, Gold and Sword located close to Arromanches, the Merville Gun Battery, Sainte – mere – Eglise and the two American Beaches of Utah and Omaha, including the Cemetery's, the Pegasus Bridge Monument from the River Orne & Caen Canal crossing including the Ranville War Cemetery, and anything else there is time to throw in. **Simon** is a fluent French speaker and an expert in the history of the events of June 1944 in this area, he will act as our guide.

We will return on Tuesday 19th April after an overnight ferry, the full cost is £360 p/p which may include some meals, (still at the negotiation stage). Those who have not paid their non-refundable deposit at this meeting will not be going, ferries have to be booked in advance, maybe's don't count. **Timings to be confirmed.**

N/B: advanced warning, because we are using Brittany Ferries, (differing procedure's to P & O), we need full payment by the March meeting, also all dates of birth are required ASAP. Tel: 01482 653618 or 01757 268188.

Matters arising: A short discussion about the associations face book site took place and a few minor adjustments have been agreed, but you must contact **Paul Sims, (Simbo)** for the full details, the Secretary again publically apologised for his ignorance in these matters and for any offence he may have caused to any given individual.

Items from members: **Tony Costello** proudly showed off a photographic account of The Yorkshire Air Museum open day taken last year, (2015), sent to him by his personal friend **Ian Reed, (Museum Director)**. **Tony** served in Palestine with **Ian's** father **Des**. way back in 1947 as part of the 6th Division. The album contains a splendid photo of this association in front of the Dakota.

Welfare report on "Woody" **Tony Irwin** gave a comprehensive account on **Colin's** condition, and to sum up, he is no worst, yet no sign of improvement, the medics appear to be baffled on this one, this association offers any support needed to **Colin and family** also please accept our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: to be held in the Minerva, on Corporation Pier, Hull at 20.00hrs on Friday 5th February 2016.

Dates for your diary:

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

Arnhem Pilgrimage: 15th – 19th September 2016.

Remembrance Sunday: 13th November 2016.

