



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 6th July 2018 at the 'Minerva'

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton, J. Cherry, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, D. French, D. Harvey, D. Hines, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, A. Kitching, J. Mace, M. Maddison, K. Millington, G. Newton, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Russell, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, B. Steele, A. Stimpson, J. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock.

Apologies: F. Gray, J. Duffy, M. Holdsworth, K. Robinson, P. Robinson, A. Costello, A. Foster, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, M. Hall, S. Hoyle, D. Meekin, P. Robson, L. Smith, T. Walker, D. Woollas.

Guests: B. Bridges

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting with a toast to the RAF on this it's centenary year, the very existence of our country today is due to the huge sacrifice made by these young men when we stood alone at our darkest hour, this was followed by a toast to absent friends, he went on to break the sad news that **Keith Robinson** has just been moved into the intensive care department at the HRI and is fighting for his life. (Watch the message board).

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

Proposed by – **F. Pougher**

Seconded by – **M. Beardshaw**

Treasure's Report:

Martin was pleased to announce that the association funds are in good order with final payments made for this year's Arnhem Pilgrimage. (Travel details for this will be given out at the next meeting).

He brought news from the Chatham Branch of the AEA via his brother **Mike** who informs us all that there only 30 places left for the 'Gala Dinner' in October, must act quickly if you want to attend.

Correspondence: relevant incoming.

Gaz Coe posted on message bd 4/6/2018. Fella's earlier this year **Tony Kitch** organized a clay pigeon shoot and it proved to be a great success, he is willing & able to organize another shoot later in the year, but would like feedback on numbers interested. **Tony Kitching, Mb: 07930015184**

As always it's a family affair open to all, and would happen on a weekend day, we are collecting names first before deciding dates, therefore if interested let **Kitch** or the committee know.

Steve Brown posted on message bd 9/6/2018. Gents, I would just like to pass on many, many thanks for the excellent turnout from 299 Association at **Bunny's** funeral on Friday the 8th June. I think **Bunny** himself would have been over the moon with such a brilliant attendance. You guys did him proud and thanks for coming down. As I've said before, we can always count on 299 for support. Till we meet again. Steve.

Chris Shillito posted on message bd 12/6/2018. Gentlemen 14 men from the 299 Association travelled to Birmingham for the funeral of 131 legend **Bunny Brown**. Although a very sad day the hospitality shown to us by our brothers ex 301 Troop was second to none, from the moment we arrived we were met by a welcoming committee of friends. On behalf of our association I would like to thank **Stevie Brown** and all the **Brown** family for making a very sad day special, the comradeship was outstanding, our mates **Kenny Wratten & Mick Walker** travelled from Scotland to be there for their friend **Bunny**. A big thank you to **Mick Williams** for accommodating us at HMS Sterling and looking after our every need, outstanding behaviour by all. **Bunny** may be gone but he will never be forgotten.

John H. Donaldson, GSM 62 with Clasp South Arabia, email dated 18/6/2018. Dear all, I refer to the title and have to inform you that I received a phone call this morning from former **Capt. Eoghann Maclachlain**, he told me he had received a letter from the Army Medal Office saying he is not entitled for the award because he was only training in Aden, 1965. I presume the widows of **WO2 John Lonergan** and **Sgt Gibson Earl** have also been notified with a similar letter. On 16th September 2016 I received a letter from the Army Medal Office informing me that under the Special Army Act of 25th July 1966, the casualties of 300 Para Sqn RE were entitled to the award. Now the MoD have done a U turn and are using any excuse not to award the GSM.

In Saturday's Daily Mail newspaper the Pony Mascot of a Highland Regiment was laid to rest at Stirling Castle. During the pony's service it was awarded the following. NATO, former Yugoslavia Medal, Iraq Medal, GSM with Clasp Northern Ireland, Accumulated Service Medal and a Jubilee Medal. It would seem the pony was more important than a soldier killed or wounded in action.

The pen pushers in the MoD should hang their heads in shame. Kind regards **John**.

N/B: John will not be leaving the matter there, the qualifying criteria contradictions in this case only high lights the bureaucratic fools within the MoD medal Department, who cannot / or will not accept their own rulings, how do they get away with it?

Dave Pace (AEA Webmaster), email dated 21/6/2018. Gentlemen, I've now added an events page to the AEA website as well as a temporary image on the homepage to highlight its inclusion. Currently it shows details for the 23/15 event at Woodbridge in July, (see dates for your diary), and the Gala dinner in October. Please let me know if there are any events you would like to include in this page at any time. My plan is to list events in date order regardless of hosting branch, however if you have any suggestions on how you would like to see them listed then please let me know. Bear in mind this list of events would be open to general viewing.

Kev Saddy posted on message bd. 23/6/2018. **CROMWELL LOCK**. Fellas, I was in Newark last week and visited Cromwell lock. **Ann** and I had a quick clean up and weeded the garden at the memorial. It looks great. The area is having a clean-up and a paint job so all is good at Cromwell. Cheers.

Stewart Bristow posted on message bd. 24/6/2018. To 299 Troop. I visited for the first time the web site of 299 Troop. I was very happy to see the numerous pictures of the Troop which brought back many fond memories.

A very special hello to **Chris Shillito & Gary Coe** (who I cannot thank enough for helping me find my way in my earlier days with the Troop). Do you have any news of **Billy Draper** who I used to go to school with?

N/B: I wrote to **Stew**, (letters read out at the meeting), he is now completely international, more mileage than **Alan Wicker**, obviously done very well for himself, living in Tokyo with his Japanese wife. He would welcome communication (emails) with any of his old 299 pals. bristow.sm@aol.com Please lads, no begging letters..!

Gaz Coe posted on message bd. 2/7/2018. **BREAVMENT** It's with the deepest regret that I have to inform you all about the sudden death of the daughter of one of our members **John Duffy**.

John and his wife **Fay** lost their only surviving child **Helen** to a freak accident in her home, she fell down the stairs.

Condolences have been sent from this association and our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

Mike Holdsworth, email dated 6/7/2018. **EX 9 SQN & POLO SHIRTS**. My neighbour wishes to be remembered to the **299 SSM Killgarry**. His name is **Mark Donahugh** and was ex 9 Sqn in the early 90's. Would you pass this on if you get the chance?

Just also, to remind you we have an interest in polo shirts of similar design to the rugby shirts. We are trying to trace the 301 die which **Bunny or Pete Thornett** had, we believe, but just before he died he started hording things. **Ozz**.

Chris Shillito: posted on message bd. 6/7/2019. Gentlemen, one of our members **Keith Robinson** has pneumonia and is in Hull Royal Infirmary, ward 8, his wife **Eileen** has visiting covered this coming weekend and **Mike Maddison** is going on Monday and I will go Monday night, **Eileen** can't make the evenings so if you can spare some time to see an old friend. The visiting hours are afternoon 2pm to 4pm and evening 6pm to 7pm, any info required ring me, Mb: 07877277288.

Social Calendar: PROPOSED ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2019, (75TH ANNIVERSARY)

This association is in the process of planning Arnhem 2019 for 50 people, that is a coach full, we have managed to obtain hotel costings at the same rate as this year's price with the Fletcher Doorwerth, hotel rooms are at a premium for the 75th in the Arnhem area, the big tour operators bag the lot in a hope for making a killing on this special occasion.

We are therefore starting a list for 2019 with names going down in the order that are given, and are also accompanied by a £50 refundable deposit, this is just in case there are more than 50 people wanting a place, and we do need this commitment in giving the committee a chance to organize. We want to give this year's attendee's first crack for 2019, but cannot keep places open for ever, therefore we have made the September meeting the cut-off point, remember your £50 deposit can be retrieved up to May 2019, the next AGM. Total costings are not known as yet, this will depend on coach & ferry charges and any increase for 2019.

Because our Treasurer, **Martin Tindle** is standing down in May 2019, the Vice Treasurer **Glenn Ratten** will be taking monies for this Arnhem pilgrimage, please do not bother **Martin** with cash for this trip, he will no longer be in the Treasurer's position at the time of the 2019 bookings. **Glenn Ratten's Tel: 01757 700016, Mb: 07795248328, email: glennratten@icloud.com**

Chairman's Comments:

We have far too many welfare issues showing up this month and some of them need to be mentioned;

Fay & John Duffy have this week had to say good bye to **Helen**, their only remaining child who died after a freak accident in the home, she has joined her brother **Johnathon** who was taken many years ago, aged 16 with Cystic Fibrosis, all this, and **Fay** is now fighting PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy) with great courage and determination.

Carol & Dave Mace from Sydney, Australia are also struggling with this awful debilitating disease, **Carol** is also afflicted with PSP and is now struggling with her mobility.

Debra & Tony Foster are still struggling on after the road accident which nearly took the life of **Debs**, over the many months the medics have managed to put her together again, but one arm is useless and is due to be removed, this keeps her in pain 24/7 and the operation cannot come soon enough.

Doreen & Graham Beaumont are still learning to live with **Beau's** many health issues which started in the Middle East resulting in open heart surgery, which at the time saved his life, but not without consequences.

Eileen & Keith Robinson have had to abort their holiday due to **Keith** being taken ill with pneumonia, they were touring on the Isle-of-Wight when he was taken ill and somewhere `along the line` **Eileen** has fallen and broken her arm, leaving them helpless. **Paul (Son)** in Wales came to the rescue. **Keith** is now in the Hull Royal Infirmary on ward 8 and would welcome 299 visitors, he's a bit confused and thoroughly depressed.

Our friends will never be forgotten and this association stands ready to help wherever and whenever possible. And to you carers; never be too proud to ask for support, everybody needs a leg up now and again.

Matters arising: The extra two memorial boards ordered for the Roll of Honour have been completed by `Canary Joinery Co. Ltd` and were delivered tonight, along with the very reasonable invoice...`cheep` These boards are to be held and stored by **John Thompson** in readiness for your names when your time comes, there is no rush lads, plenty of room for all, but unfortunately there are `no free pens`

Items from members: A few hello's from some of our expatriates.

John (Willy) Harrison: in Belgium.

Adam (Garth) Garforth: moved back to Bulgaria, (summer residence).

Dave Mace: Botany Bay.

Stew Bristow: Tokyo.

Paul Sims informed the meeting that it is Veterans week end at the East Park on 28th – 29th July, it is free entry for everybody, planned parades and military events to take place. The Hull City Council organize this event every year as a thank you to all vets, thus promoting the services of all our forces. A good family day out.

Tony Irwin picked up some feelers regarding possible extra members to this association, his involvement with the CESA organization and the British Legion has led to possible inclusion of other military association members into this one. Many military associations are struggling for numbers throughout the country and it's no different in Hull, most are in danger of folding. The Chairman reinforced our mantra of turning nobody away at this association and it's possibly the reason we continue to thrive. You can spread the news **Tony**.

Dave Harvey, (Wilys lad) is one of the oldest `teddy boys` in Hull and he plays the drums in the world renowned group `Johnny Pat & the Aces`, as well as the Hull police band. The Aces are doing a gig on the 28th July at the Gangstead Golf Club East of Hull, he kindly dished out complementary free tickets to those who wanted and we cannot thank him enough.

Simbo's bus stop: the winner this month **Stu. Saxby**, `to those who have`

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: will be held in the Ship Inn at Dunswell, (Johnno's place), on the 3rd August 2018, the `Minerva` is unavailable due to the annual festival on Nelson Street / Cooperation (Victoria) Pier and the surrounding area. Fred Gray please take note..!

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

Dates for your diary:

AIRBORNE FORCES REMEMBRANCE DAY (Northern), Saturday 14th July 2018. Eden Camp, Near Malton. A reunion, parade and commemorative service is to be held for all Airborne Forces. Parade at 11.00hrs, free entry for cherry berets and parade participants.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF 23 PARACHUTE ENGINEER REGIMENT taking place in Woodbridge over two days;

Freedom of Woodbridge Parade; 10.00-1100hrs on Friday 27th July 2018.

Woodbridge Station Open Day; 11.00- 1500hrs Saturday 28th July 2018.

Featuring an Apache Helicopter; The Red Devils Parachute Display Team, a live band and much more... Further details can be found on our social media channels. If you're interested get together and fill cars..!

YORKSHIRE AIR MUSEUM MEMORIAL DAY: 2ND Sept. 2018, details TBC, remember: Centenary year for the RAF, will be a big occasion this year, a good turn out from this association would do this association no harm at all..!

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2018. THURSDAY NIGHT 20th Sept (overnight ferry) ----- MONDAY morning after overnight ferry Sept.24th 2018
Details to follow.

CROMWELL LOCK MEMORIAL SERVICE, (at the lock), **SUNDAY 30TH SEPT. 2018.** Details to follow.

29TH ANNUAL AEA GALA DINNER – SATURDAY 13TH October 2018. To be held at the King Charles Hotel, Brompton Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5QT. (Chatham Branch of the AEA), Booking forms attached to April's minutes.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11TH NOV. 2018, details to follow

CONTACTS:

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