



299 ASSOCIATION

Charity No: 1009201

Date: 4th July 2014

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, W. Draper, W. Drayton, J. Duffy, D. Harvey, C. Henrickson, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, A. Kitchen, J. Mace, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, C. Shillito, P. Sims, L. Smith, J.C. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, T. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Woodward.

Apologies: P. Hairsien, J. Harrison. K. Saddington, M. Maddison, C. Duggan, C. Gadd, A. Mossop, G. Newton, P. Robson, D. Stuart, J. Thompson, J. Brookes, S. Oliver.

Guests: R. Franklin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The chairman welcomed all present then opened the meeting.

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

Proposed by – F. Pougher

Seconded by – A. Weldon

Treasure's Report: Martin informed the meeting that the monies for the Arnhem pilgrimage is now over due, any non payers who still want to go must contact him immediately, the book is now closed.

Requests; requests on any subject must be personally put before the membership at the meetings, for sanctioning. Committee members cannot make decisions alone and must not be approached to do so, the mandate within this association lies firmly in the hands of its members, not the committee, and therefore every decision made has to come from the floor via a majority vote.

Correspondence:

Insurance: The members of this association have been led to believe by previous administrations, and on many occasions, that we are somehow covered by some form of group insurance because of our affiliation with the AEA. We had been told, there is in place, a blanket cover, protecting us all personally, which also covers for the loss or theft to our Standard, I have, for our records queried these factors with the Executive Committee of the AEA, receiving the following reply from J. Lee, (letter read to the members). **The conclusion is no such insurance exists, ALL MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL WELL BEING, "normal travel insurance if going abroad"** The annual premium to insure the Standard would almost match the cost of a replacement. A letter of thanks has been sent to John Lee, President of AEA, for his involvement in this matter.

Aden (update): John Donaldson, (Scottish Branch, AEA), received a reply to his letter from General Sir Peter Wall, GCB, CBE, ADC Gen, on the 19th June 2014. He'd found the account of 300 Para Sqn. actions in Aden during 1965, extremely interesting. He has also arranged for wreaths to be laid on the graves of Lonergan and Atfield on the 12th April 2015, (50th Anniversary). Unfortunately there was no mention of the GSM (Aden), and as yet had no reply from the PM's office on the same subject.

Gaddy's thanks: The Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2014 was truly amazing; he'd had no dramas with his prosthetic cycle leg, which he uses on a normal bike, even with only a limited amount of practise, he'd ridden with some amazing people, real hero's. He thanks the association, also the individuals for their support through sponsorship, and went on to say "I know this isn't coming directly to me, but in many ways indirectly"

For those of you that can, here is a link to a quick over view of the week.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10152089218822307&id=613387306

You can also see the videos on You Tube, just type; **Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2014**, there are five separate ones, one for each day.

Pete Fenty dedication: letters of thanks have been received from the following; **John Lee (President of AEA)**; "the response from 299 was really appreciated." **Ron Webster (G & C PRA)**; "It was a honour for the branch to have 299 on board." **Brian Dingley (Chairman of G & C PRA)**; "A privilege to hold this event, great support from 299." **Charlie McColgan (instigator)**: "It was a memorable occasion made all the more special by 299 being present, you are a fantastic bunch."

Campaign for a Veterans Medal: In response to public pressure, the efforts of a small group of veterans and after eight years, the Government has initiated a "Medal Review" This review is in its final stages with a section devoted to the **NDM**, (National Defence Medal). All the indications are that serious considerations will be given to the striking of what is effectively a veteran's medal. It is hoped that the announcement should fall on the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo – 18th June 1815. The Waterloo Medal of 1815 is regarded as the first "Veteran's" medal struck and was awarded to 39,000 veterans including posthumously. A petition has been raised and would welcome your support. Full details were given out at the meeting, for further information contact the secretary.

Chairman's Comments:

Bill Drayton gave a run down on the Dedication Service and day's events surrounding W/O Pete Fenty, 9 Sqn, which he described as a special friendship forged and reinforced in the face of adversity.

Charlie "Andy" McColgan and Pete Fenty enlisted on the same day at Chepstow during 1977 and hit it off immediately, a friendship which has lasted to this day.

Work had brought Charlie to Pete's home town of Grimsby and upon visiting his grave, (died tragically in Germany, in 1995, aged 35), found no reference to his service with the Para's, from this moment on he decided to put this right, hence the plaque which symbolised his active service between 1979 and 1984, (Northern Ireland and the Falklands War).

Pete had saved Charlie's life 32 years ago, when they had both served with 9 Sqn during the retaking of the Falklands, he had kept him alive after the battle for Mount Tumbledown when they had become detached from their unit as they cleared Argentinean trenches on June 14, 1982. The appalling weather conditions, freezing temperatures and uncertain enemy positions had made movement off the mountain impossible that night and Charlie had developed hypothermia, Pete, "an ex trawler man" knew how to cope with the cold and did what was necessary to keep them both alive, Charlie said "I owe my life and that of my family to Pete, I will never forget that night, I thought my time was up, he will always be my brother."

This moving grave side service at Cleethorpes Cemetery was watched by all Peter's family, including Brothers John, Mark, Steve, Paul and many other relatives, Peter's Daughter's Helen and Laura lifted the Union Flag to reveal the plaque on his grave, enscribed with the 9th Parachute Squadron and his active service details, a lone piper, (John Ferry), played a lament throughout the service which was supported by a large contingent from the Airborne Brotherhood, 14 from 299 alone.

Peter's brother Mark said: "Thanks to the efforts of his comrades and also hearing someone say all those things about him is heart warming, Peter is never out of our minds, not for a moment."
Brother John said: "We are hugely privileged to celebrate Peter's life here today; he was a fine soldier, who would have gone on to greater things, we are very grateful and wish to thank his colleagues and comrades in remembering him for his contribution in keeping our nation safe and also for the enhancement to his grave, this service was very moving to us all, to say the least."

After the service it was back to the Pegasus bar, above the RAF club, on the promenade where we were fed and watered, also a chance to meet the family and enjoy the company of the G & C PRA who really made us welcome and a good day was had by all. The Chairman thanked the members of this association who responded to a request for AEA representation at this dedication. A special thanks was reserved for the following: John Ferry (Pipes), Colin Woodward (299 Standard Bearer) and Tony Costello (photography).



Courtesy of Tony Costello

299 with Charlie "Andy" McColgan (3rd from left)
(As viewed)

"HIS MEMORY WILL LIVE FOR EVER, THANKS TO HIS FAMILY AND COMRADES"

Matters arising: 299's archives have been collected and collated over the many years by Jack Brooks, one of our many unsung heroes, who in turn passed them on to Chris Shillito as guardian and keeper when Jack's service was completed, and have remained in his care to this day. One of our members, "Tony Irwin" has shown an interest in the position of official 299 Archivist and wished to be considered for this position. No objections came from the membership on this consideration, therefore thanks Tony for accepting the responsibility for the management of our archives.

Web site: The membership have instructed the Secretary to approach Gary Newton, (299's last website manager), with a request from this association in the taking over and management of this given site. This was proposed by T. Cunningham, seconded by P. Sims and agreed by an overall majority.

All correspondence in this matter will be shown at the next meeting.

Steve McManhon: has been seen around Hull by several members and wife's, "Deno" reports he's living in a hostel and getting his life together, he looked well fed and in good order, we all wish him well.

Items from members: "Deno" brought us all up to date with his old mate Paul Routledge of the BoB memorial flight fame and the relationship between an old "Dakota" pilot and Mally Tindle, (coach/bus, driver supreme).

"Deno" has just received his Grandfathers Certificate of merit, personalised and signed by President Obama, this commemorates the ultimate sacrifice of his Grandfather in the Ardennes district of Belgium during 1944, (The Battle of the Bulge).

That quiet retiring uncle "Barney" from Florida made contact with "Deno" wishing us all a happy "Independence Day" (4th July), now isn't that thoughtful of him? We can take it, we have to. He genuinely sends his best wishes to all 299 men and asks to be remembered.

Next Meeting: 1st August 2014, Minerva, at 20.00hrs, Cooperation Pier, Hull.

Dates for your diary:

ABF W/end 2014 to be hosted by 299 Para Sqn RE at their Wakefield Barracks on the 11th – 12th July 2014, for full details contact: WO 11 Vince May at 299 Sqn direct.

Cleethorpes Air Show W/end: 26th & 27th July 2014, the Grimsby & Cleethorpes PRA has included and provided for Les Ransom (Arnhem Vet & Guest of Honour) & Bill Drayton (Chairman), both of 299 Association to attend for an unveiling ceremony.

Veterans Forces W/end on the 26th and 27th July 2014 at East Park, Holderness Rd. Hull.

Arnhem 70th Commemoration at Woodhall Spa: 6th September 2014, (full day)

Forces Memorial Day: Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, Nr. York.
Sunday 7th September 2014.

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2014

The 6 day option 16/9/2014 – 22/9/2014

The 4 day option 18/9/2014 – 22/9/2014

Remembrance Sunday: 9th November 2014

