



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 5th July 2019 at the `Minerva`

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, G. Coe, N. Cooper, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, C. Gadd, C. Ham, J. Harrison, D. Harvey, D. Hines, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, M. Lawrence, R. Meachen, K. Millington, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, M. Sadler, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, B. Steele, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, A. Homan, C. Henrickson, C. Duggan, A. Green, J. Brooks, J. Thompson, K. Blacker, A. Foster, R. Franklin, D. French, M. Hall, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, T. James, M. Maddison, D. Meekin, L. Smith, D. Woollas, A. Costello.

Guests: Eileen Robinson.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting with a special hello to one of our ex pats **John (Willy) Harrison**, back to "Blighty" for a short visit hoping to collect another "Bounty" It was a real pleasure to have Keith's widow, Eileen pop in to say hello to old friends.

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

Proposed by – **Craig Gadd**

Seconded by – **Frank (Bud) Pougher**

Treasure's Report: Glenn reported that our funds are in good order, he has opened a new association savings account at the same bank, but at a branch more convenient for him, (we have his passport), to take full advantage of any interest acquisitions.

Correspondence:

Brad Steele, e-mail dated 9/6/2019, pointed out that the June minutes still showed **Paddy Nolan** as the Vets Hub Coordinator in Hull, this is not so, and I must apologise for not doing my homework. The new Coordinator is **Callum Day**, **Paddy** has moved on, giving reasons for leaving the Hub post as lack of support in meeting the massive needs for the Vets in the Hull area, we wish him well in his new venture, and the very best for **Callum**.

N/B: contact details for this Hub will always be included at the end of the news sheet, (minutes).

Eamon Smyth e-mail dated 9/6/2019. **TOSCAIG PLAQUE**

Back from North of the wall. Attached photos of plaque fitted. I have delivered the aluminium template to A.O. 299 Para Sqn RE for mounting and display at Middleton Barracks in Hull.

I have the original plaque to forward to 131 SHQ but want to get a couple of acceptable prints to go with it. AEA Scotland want to display prints of the new plaque at RBL Grangemouth so I will liaise with them on that.

The weather was Scottish 55 MPH wind/rain on occasions. Did complete the NC 500 though.

My reply:

Brilliant job **Eamon**, I'm in the middle of typing the June minutes after our Friday meeting, where **Chris Shillito (Chairman)** sang your praises, this was met with a massive round of applause from all members, your efforts have captured approval on many fronts, I also add my personal congratulations.

John Donaldson, e-mail dated 9/6/2019, thanks for the minutes and kind comments regarding the struggle for the GSM with Clasp South Arabia. **Angus MacNeil MP** has written a letter to the Secretary of State for Defence, **Penny Mordaunt MP**, on my behalf, to see if she has more sense than **Lord Howe** and his cronies.

So very sad to learn of the death of **L/Cpl Darren Jones of 9 Para Sqn RE** in Normandy. What a terrible loss.

I am glad you had a good turnout in Hull in protest against the political prosecutions of the 70+ Veterans. Unfortunately the government does not listen.

Chris Shillito (Chairman) posted the following on the message board on 9/6/2019; Good turnout from the 299 Association yesterday at the Cenotaph in Hull to support our veterans who are being prosecuted for doing their duty by our cowardly politicians, well done to all who attended.

Tommy Burns, e-mail dated 10/6/2019, wishing all 299 well, looking forward to Arnhem.

Derek French cracked a funny regarding our motto via e-mail dated 10/6/2019. **Gaz**, you are quite right about the Corps of Royal Engineers and the Royal Regiment of Artillery sharing the same motto **UBIQUE**, but they have slightly different meanings. For the Sappers it does mean "**Everywhere**" but for the Gunners it means "**All over the place**"

Dave Rutter, (editor AEA Journal) e-mail dated 10/6/2019, thanks for the minutes of your last meeting which I will show around the Aldershot Branch, all the best to all at 299 Association.

Ken Newton, (former OC 299), e-mail dated 10/6/2019, thanks for the minutes, just back from Normandy, very moving as always and the realisation that the Vets must be 92 or over so will get to a stage soon when there are no Vets left.

Looking forward to seeing old mates from 299 in Arnhem.

Defence Discount service**contact@defencediscountservice.co.uk** dated 24/6/2019

This service is working on behalf of the Armed Forces Community to get offers for you, therefore once registered keep checking back for new offers as the web-site is constantly being up dated.

Included is a little information on how it works to help you get the most out of the service.

Online offers allow to use voucher codes to save on online shopping.

Defence Privilege Card allows you to save in high street stores, venues and restaurants. This card was launched by the Prime Minister and is available for £4.99 for 5 years.

Gift Cards are a great way to make extra savings on the high street and are not just used as gifts. There are gift cards available with many top brands and supermarkets, for instance; put £100 on the card you would pay £96, but still have the £100 of credit left on the card, and this can used to pay at the tills.

Defence Discount Service Team www.defencediscountservice.co.uk

Fred Grey, (Author, ex 299 & 9 Sqn), e-mail dated 2/7/2019, Sends his regrets at not being able to attend this month's meeting, but the medics are struggling like hell with skin grafts and other treatments in trying to get on top of an aggressive form of skin cancer to his scalp. He sends his best wishes to all at 299 Association and hopefully will meet up later in the year.

Kenny Russell, phoned today 5th July, sending his best wishes to all at the 299 meeting, would have loved to be amongst you all, probably next spring with fingers crossed. Everything in the garden is growing well, thus keeping the village shop busy. Says he's short of nothing he wants, even the odd regular home run.

Steve Wallis (AEA Chairman)**Remembrance Day (Whitehall) Tickets****e-mail dated 4/7/2019**

Thanks to the sterling efforts of **John Ferry** the AEA has been allocated 30 tickets for this year's parade at the Cenotaph. As in previous years each branch will be allocated 3 tickets. I will retain the remainder for AEA members that are not associated with any branch.

We have to submit applications by 19th August, therefore I need your nominations by 10th August at the very latest.

The following details are required for each applicant:

- Name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Address & Post code
- Service number
- Details of service (start-> finish).

If your interested details to Gaz Coe by 27/7/2019.

Marten Hall**Veterans 4 Wildlife****e-mail dated 5/7/2019**

Apologies for not being there tonight but I'm out on exercise this week end. I did want to come in to let people know about Veterans 4 Wildlife and what they offer, but hopefully you can fit this in the newsletter.

I have just been on a 3 week trip to Kruger National Park to support the anti-poaching efforts out there. I can't go into too much detail due to OPSEC, but they are a good bunch to work with and the work they are doing is the main effort in the battle against illegal poaching of rhino in their area of operations.

The aim of Veterans 4 Wildlife is to support veterans and those transitioning out from the military service by providing opportunities to utilise their military skills in the ongoing anti-poaching operations in South Africa.

They pay all your expenses such as food, flights and accommodation and get down time to explore the park and its wildlife. You would need some spending money for postcards and drinks etc. and the accommodation in the park is tents, but it is infinitely more comfortable than being on operations and no-one is actively trying to kill you, (apart from the wildlife at times).

The role is to support operations through the use of technology rather than being out on patrol with the rangers, which can be a bit irritating. The support is provided through night shifts are usually five hours long but may get extended if there is an active operation going on. This project is definitely having an impact on protecting these rare creatures and I would highly recommend it to anyone with the time to spare.

You can apply to volunteer with them through their website which is at: www.veterans4wildlife.org

Sqn News: Update from Sgt Tom James 1 Troop 299 Squadron, 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment.

The Squadron is doing well when it comes to numbers with over 200 soldiers on the books from across all three locations, Hull, Wakefield and Gateshead.

Training weekends are mostly ran out of Wathgill Camp which has good access to Catterick training area and the ranges at Feldom. This weekend 5th – 7th July sees the Sqn on a ranges weekend and will be living in rabbit wood barn in Catterick from Friday night to Sunday morning. We expect to see 30+ attendees putting lead down the range.

Last weekend was the Humber Bridge half marathon, 2 of Hull's Sprs and 2 of our L/Cpls crossed the finish line proudly wearing maroon T-shirts and carrying Bergen's. We plan to do more events like this in the future.

Hull sent a team of 4 out to Italy last month to compete in a patrols competition which saw them soldiering at river crossings, battlefield casualty evacuation, navigational and shooting skills all being tested. The lads came 10th out of 30, only 2 places behind 9 Parachute Sqn RE.

The Sqn currently has 2 guys out in Afghanistan on Op TORAL working alongside the Parachute Regt who are assisting with the security of the capital city of Kabul.

We have a hand full of lads preparing to deploy to South Sudan for Op TRENTON, this is a UN Peace Keeping mission working to protect hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians by building defensive infrastructure, thus allowing the government to continue to deal with the countries many problems, they are due to mobilise mid Sept.

This month sees veterans weekend at East Park (Hull) and members of the Squadron will be there actively recruiting, so if you fancy getting back in, come and chat to the boys in maroon.

All in all, the Sqn is in a good place and sends its regards and best wishes to the association.

Kind regards Tom.

Chairman's comments: The Annual Cromwell Lock Remembrance Service.

Again, this year, the official Remembrance Service for the above will take place on the same date as the Arnhem Commemoration week end, 22 Sept. meaning many people will be denied their chance to attend the service at the Lock, because they will be in Holland for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem. The date for the service is always set by the Newark branch of the Parachute Regimental Association who seem to have taken responsibility for these matters and nobody would wish to interfere with their plans, even though many 131 RE men often find themselves excluded.

It has been observed at their last meeting that the Birmingham branch of the AEA suggested Sunday 29th Sept for a second service to accommodate the men missing out on the official service.

A suggestion coming from the floor of this 299 meeting called for any secondary Commemoration should be held on Saturday 28th Sept, the 44th Anniversary to the day of that disaster of 1975, it was obviously deemed to be the only realistic date to hold any Remembrance Service this year, this suggestion was put to the meeting, many of them veterans from that fateful exercise and it was noted that a large number of members would willingly support the 44th anniversary option, (Sat 28th Sept).

This calls for further communication between branches and Newark PRA.

Items from members: Observations by **Gaz Coe**

After visiting the graves of some of our departed friends I began to realise how many graves are openly neglected, **Tony Irwin** attends each known grave once a year around Remembrance Day and places a Cross bearing poppy to each site on behalf of this association. As time goes by, and for whatever reason, neglect has been observed at many sites. One such grave is **SSM Stanley Robinson's** whose grave has not received any attention over the last year other than from me, something has happened and family circumstances change over time. I am asking all members to do some detective work behind the scenes for **Stan** and any others that are going in the same way.

Reminder: to those men preparing photos & scripts for the "Roll of Honour" board, that our web-master eagerly awaits your input.

Simbos bus Stop: One winner this month Stu Saxby

Web site address: www.299association.com

**Next Meeting: will be held at the SHIP INN Dunswell, Beverley Road on Friday 2nd August 2019.
This change of venue is to make way for the annual music festival down Nelson Street on that date.**

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

Dates for your diary:

Airborne Forces (Northern) Day 13th July 2019 at Eden camp, Malton.

The annual reunion, parade & Commemorative service for all Airborne Forces.

Parade starts at 11:00hrs, wearers of the maroon beret usually given free entry.

Allied Air Forces Memorial Day – 1st September 2019.

Service & Parade as previous years, details TBC.

Cromwell Lock Memorial Service 22nd September 2019 at the Lock

TBC at later date

A second service is at the planning stage as yet to accommodate the many men unable to attend the Memorial Service (above), Saturday 28th Sept marks the 44th Anniversary of the disaster.

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 10TH NOV. 2019, 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: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Tel: 01757 700016, Mb: 07795248328.

Web Master: Dave Hines, davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 860981, Mb: 07821698522.

Archivist: Tony Irwin, bigtirwin@hotmail.com Tel; 01482 793847, Mb: 07928956592.
WELFARE:

The veterans Hub & Forum, coordinator Callum Day for all your problems

Address: Goodwin Community Hub, Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 2LL, (opposite the `Tigers Lair`).

Tel: 01482 485958, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org

