



299 ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the AEA, but as always open to ALL 299 men past & present.

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 2nd July 2021, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva.

This meeting could only happen because of a lot work by the staff of the Minerva in obeying Covid rules.

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, C. Gadd, D. Harvey, A. Irwin, Sgt T. James, P. Jefferson, J. Mace, K. Millington, F. Pougher, G. Ratten, C. Shillito, P. Sims, Mart. Tindle, T. Walker, A. Weldon, P. Wolstenholme.

Apologies: F. Gray, A. Costello, R. Meachem, M. Lawrence, D. French, M. Maddison, B. Steele, A. Alcock, K. Blacker, C. Duggan, A. Foster, J. Harrison, P. Robinson, M. Holdsworth, D. Meekin, L. Smith.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting.

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

Proposed by – **M. Beardshaw**

Seconded by – **T. Cunningham**

Treasure's Report:

The Treasurer **Glenn Ratten** brought the meeting up to date on the monies required for the Normandy 2021 trip scheduled for the 10th Sept. and just as last year - final payment has been demanded without any prior warning, we have no choice but to conform to avoid possible imposed penalties because of the breaking of contract rules, the tour operators have us over a barrel.

We have to believe that the trip will go ahead, but 'who' knows? We are in the hands of this pandemic and will be until the 9th Sept. (day before the trip), if the trip has to be cancelled we will get a full refund, if anyone pulls

out they will lose their £50 deposits, the committee offers it's apologies, but nobody could have seen this one coming when we first booked it up in 2019, this situation is the new normal and we will have to get used to it.

Correspondence:

Gmail from **Lt Col (Ret'd) John Lee**. President of the AEA, Mon 7th June 2021

Congratulations to 299 – as far as I am aware you are the first group to have held a formal meeting since the lockdown, although there have been some zoom meetings amongst others.

Glad to hear that things are beginning to get back to normal. I was interested to read your summary of events. One tends to forget everything that has happened. One little point I noted in the minutes is regarding Cromwell Lock; although **Mike Holdsworth** was named as contact I am responsible for running it this year and have already some of the arrangements in hand, there is a possibility of a Dakota flypast on the day, but it has not been confirmed yet.

Planning is going ahead for the AGM/Gala Dinner at Harrogate in October and I hope that some of you will be able to attend and we can meet up again – a lot of water has passed under the bridge since we last met.

Think that is all for now, so best wishes to all at 299 from me.

Regards John

Forwarded Gmail from Derek **French** June 27th 2021.

Received the following regarding the award of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal next year and the proposed qualifying criteria set in a petition.

The undermentioned item was in Airborne Network Update received today and I thought it might be of interest to anyone on my "military email net". **Who wouldn't like another gong!** Will the MoD have the money to pay for a medal for everyone who has served since 1952? Perhaps scrap a couple of useless AJAX light tanks!

QUOTE:

Include military personal (sic) with 5 years' service in criteria for the Platinum Jubilee medal.

There are plans to issue a Platinum Jubilee medal to honour Queen Elizabeth II. The criteria for the medal should include all personnel, serving or retired, who have had 5 years continuous service during Her Majesty's reign.

Go to: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/579827> to sign the petition.

UNQUOTE:

Pass it on. Let's get it to 100,000 signatures. Could you please consider circulating this across the 299 network, and let's see if we can achieve the required signatures.

Gmail from **Steve Wallis** Chairman AEA, July 2nd 2021

NATIONAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AT THE CENOTAPH (WHITEHALL)

Gents,

I have just received confirmation from the RBL that the Association has been allocated 36 spaces on the Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. This is the largest allocation the association has been granted and I want to make sure that all spaces are taken up.

I propose to offer 4 spaces to each of the 7 branches, the remainder I will give out to AEA members, not affiliated to branches, who want to go. I also intend to offer 2 spaces to 23 Parachute Engineer Regt unless anyone has violent objections.

I must return all names to the RBL by Thursday 26th August, however it takes a lot of time getting all the details entered and checked and I want to make sure that we use the full allocation, so I would like your nominees by 31st July at the latest, any queries please contact me on stephen.wallis57@ntlworld.com

N/B: FOR ALL 299 MEN; YOU MUST BE A PAID UP MEMBER OF THE AEA TO TAKE PART IN ABOVE.

Chairman's Comments:

Chris requested from the membership permission to purchase bottles using the association funds as thank you's for services rendered, Bugler at **Les Ransom's** funeral (refused to take payment), and gift from this association for future occasion's, he also asked if he could commission another association shield to be put up in the Minerva, all requests were granted.

This association has not had an AGM since 2019 and one is badly needed, the committee at 299 Association holds no power at all, **the membership makes all the decisions**, but for the sake of democracy it has to step down to allow you people to put in place your preferences and this has to be respected, therefore provisional planning is going ahead to hold the next AGM on the first Friday of September 2021, we know this could fall down, depending on the pandemic, but life has got to move on or we will finish up as group of could've been's.

Matters arising:

Craig Gadd talked about the **RIDE OF RESPECT** taking place between 1st – 14th August 2021

Many of the dead were brought back from the Falkland's for the families to bury in their chosen place and those **ROUGH RIDERS** (ex Para vets) on big bikes, intend to travel 25,000 miles around the country to pay respect to these fallen men, also collect donations for various charities, if you want to give see **Gaddy**.

Items from members:

International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC), LINCOLN.

Peter Robson proposed an **ASSOCIATION DAY OUT** at the above for those who are interested.

During World War 2, over a million men and women from all backgrounds, ethnicities and ideologies served or supported Bomber Command. They had one purpose: to protect our freedom and for doing this they paid a heavy price with 2 out of every 3 Air Crew paying the ultimate price, the highest percentage cost of all combatant's during the war.

This is a great day out, and not expensive, the centre is a must see for everyone in Britain, every man, woman & child. We could finish off in The Dambusters Pub in Scampton village for the debrief, lifts and any other information contact **Gaz Coe Tel: 01757 268188.**

This **ASSOCIATION DAY OUT** was discussed at length, and it was agreed that groups using their own cars will make their own way there on Thursday 29th July 2021, meeting up in the car park of the IBCC at 10:00hrs. Dress: as you like (informal) and it's up to you chaps how you organise your transport between your selves, Hull is one hour away, A15 all the way, turning off at the B1188 LINCOLN, its signed IBCC, "it's a piece of cake" see you all there.

Simbos bus Stop: one winner this month **Sgt Tom James** 299 Parachute Sqn with 'Blouse'

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: Friday August 6th 2021 at the Minerva, kick off 20:00 hrs.

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

Dates for your diary:

AIRBORNE FORCES DAY – NORTHERN, EDEN CAMP, MALTON, 17TH JULY 2021.

Gates open at 9:30hrs free entry for maroon berets, Muster at 11:30hrs top car park C adjacent to huts 1 --10. Service at 11:30hrs to be conducted by Rev. John McNaughton. TBC.

ASSOCIATION DAY OUT (IBCC)

Visiting the International Bomber Command Centre on Thursday 29th July 2021 Canwick Avenue, Lincoln LN4 2HQ

Meeting in the car park at 10:00hrs

“THE BATTLEFIELDS OF NORMANDY”

This is a 4 Day trip commencing on the 10th September 2021 details to be confirmed.

Further details contact Gaz Coe. Tel: 01757 268188, e-mail: coeblimey240@gmail.com & Glenn Ratten on glennratten@icloud.com Mob: 07795248328.

Cromwell Lock disaster Service of Remembrance (timings TBC) on Sunday 26th September 2021 at the Memorial Garden next to the Lock near Newark. RSVP John Lee jlee664@btinternet.com Tel: 01531 636865.

AGM/reunion 31st Anniversary to be held over the week end Fri 15 – 17th Oct. 2021 at the Cedar Court Hotel, Park Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5AH. This event is been hosted by the Yorkshire branch of the AEA.

For further details contact Adam Frame on adamandemma@gmail.com Mb: 07809904216

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 7TH NOV. 2021, 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, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690, Mb: 07877277288.

Secretary: Gaz Coe, coeblimey240@gmail.com Tel: 01757 268188.

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com 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

