



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 5th June 2015

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, J. Cherry, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, A. Green, C. Henrickson, D. Hines, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, J. Mace, M. Maddison, F. Pougher, O. Nelson-Girchen, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Russell, C. Shillito, P. Sims, L. Smith, Mart. Tindle, T. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock, C. Woodward.

Apologies: J. Duffy, G. Beaumont. P. Robinson, K. Robinson, G. Grindley, C. Walker. B. Bilton, S. Hoyle, C. Lickiss.

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 – J. Mace.

Seconded by – F. Pougher.

Treasure's Report: Martin gave the meeting an update on the state of our funds which are still in good order. The Arnhem trip this year will cost £280 and he will require full payment by the end of July. He also thanked Tony Weldon for his donation to our funds.

Correspondence:

Update on the Cromwell Lock Commemoration Service from J Lee, (Letter read out).

The Service is planned to commence at 1400hrs on Sunday 27th September 2015 around the monument at Cromwell Lock, Cromwell, Nr. Newark.

The Chaplain from 23 Parachute RE will conduct a short service. Because this is the 40th Anniversary of the disaster significant numbers are expected from, and including, Branches of the AEA, PRA's and 131 Cdo Sqn RE. I have given John an estimated number expected from 299, **but I do need names**, transport will have to be booked, therefore **please** make up your mind quickly and let me know ASAP. Tel: 01757 268188. Many members of this association took part in this fateful exercise therefore demand for places could be heavy; it will be on a first come basis.

Allied Air Forces Memorial Day Participation Invitation at the Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, York. (Letter read out)

Again we have being invited to take part in the above on Sunday 6th September 2015. The event will take the form of a parade into a Commemoration Service (Drumhead) with a following March-past, Salute and Lowering of Ensign Sunset ceremony. This will be accompanied by a Marching Band & Corps of Drums also a flypast of historic aircraft.

The service will be conducted by His Grace the Archbishop of York Dr. John Sentamu in the presence of both the French & British Air Chief Marshalls, plus a host of distinguished guests / politicians. Again I need names for submission ASAP; there are forms to be filled in and a procedure to carry through the logistics of this event.

Your support for both these events would be welcomed; if at all possible, this association's participation in such events opens many doors for our future enjoyment.

The Airborne Engineers Association AGM / Reunion at the Royal Court Hotel, Tamworth Road, Keresley, Coventry.

For those of you who do not received the AEA Journal I have the booking forms / options, including prices, for this w/end Friday 16th – 19th October 2015, just ask!

Bunny Brown and the lads from Birmingham have organized this event. For those members planning to travel down as a group please inform the Secretary ASAP.

The Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal Fund for 2015 – 2016

Just received the following letter which was read out to the meeting; "I am writing to confirm that the **Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull**, Councillor Anita Harrison has chosen 299 Squadron of ex servicemen as one of her charities to benefit from her Charity Appeal Fund for the civic year of 2015 – 2016, which commenced on the 28th May 2015"

I have sent a letter of thanks to the Lord Mayor on behalf of this association and will be meeting her later in the month, will keep you informed.

AEA Journal contributions for the June edition

This month's AEA Journal contained a lot of material relating to this association and we have to thank our members for their time and efforts;

Dean Ideson: for his script on "**Remembering war veterans in centenary year of First World War**"

Jack Brooks: for his piece on "**299 Airborne Squadron (its Formation)**"

Tony Costello: his account on "**299 Association at RAF Coningsby trip**" including photo's and the association group photo.

N/B: if you are not receiving this journal but would like to, contact the Secretary, there are two editions per year, June & December at a cost of £8 pa.

Social calander:

Tickets are now available for the Dinner/dance at the Middleton Barracks for Saturday 1st August 2015 at the cost of £10 each, for this you can expect a buffet lunch, disco, cheap drinks and good company, dress: smart casual, 7.30pm to late, everybody welcome.

This function is a combined effort between 1 Troop 299 Sqn and this association.

There will be some surprise extra's only to be revealed on the night therefore round up your family and friends.

Tickets available from S/Sgt. Carl Ham, (07926276002) and Tony Irwin, (01482 793847), any of the committee including "Simbo" on face book.

Group of 299 men in front of the Dakota “Kwicherbichen”



Following a very enjoyable visit to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at RAF Coningsby in August 2013, a request was made by some who were unable to make the trip on that occasion, if a second visit could be arranged, and eventually after many exchanges of correspondence, we were able to fix a date for Thursday 16th April this year.

Twenty five members and friends travelled across the Humber Bridge by coach on a wet and misty morning, but the weather had cleared up by the time we reached the venue.

Split into two groups, each accompanied by a very knowledgeable guide, we were allowed into areas not normally open to the general public, one of the highlights being the opportunity to board the Dakota “Kwicherbichen” which is flown most years at the Arnhem weekend. The difference between “Green on Go” and climbing out down the metal steps was particularly noticeable by those of us who had experience of both methods of exit.

A mandatory pub stop at the Bluebell Inn and an excellent choice of pub grub put the finishing touches to an excellent day out.

Tony Costello

Tony submitted this script, along with some photos to the editor of the AEA Journal, (Dave Rutter).

N/B: This Dakota served during WW2 with the Canadian Airborne who left their names, address's, army No's, etc, scratched into the paint work of the inner fuselage, it is now a firm favourite as a part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

"Kwicherbichen" is the name given to this aircraft by its **WW2 ground crew**, 'most probably Americans,' maybe because they were **fed up to the back teeth** with the numerous complaints from its regular pilot, who always thought there was something wrong with this aircraft whenever he flew it..!

Therefore if you examine the Americanisms within the name, then break it down to reveal its origin, i.e.

Kwich - er - bichen > then becomes > **Quit - your - bitching**, its better said with a mouth full of gum, and loads of attitude.

Group photo of 299 Association taken on the 1st May 2015, prior to the AGM



Courtesy of Tony Costello

There were a few late comers missing from the photo and of course TC is not included in the frame, the photo had to be taken before we lost the light.

The location is just around the corner from the "Minerva" at the Corporation Pier, Hull, with the back drop looking over the River Humber. We have to thank Tony for doing a splendid job, also the fifty four 299 men for turning up for the AGM / Reunion, this was a brilliant turnout enjoyed by all.

Palestine Veterans Day at the National Arboretum of Remembrance held on Saturday 16th May 2015

Tony Costello organized this visit with both the 299 Association and the Palestine association Standards paraded at this short service of remembrance held at the Palestine memorial.

Thanks must go to Colin Woodward & Tony Irwin our Standard Bearers, also to TC for making this happen.

N/B: Tony Costello is ex 6th Division, 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment and Palestine Veteran, also a valued member of this association.

Hardwick Hall, Service & Parade held on Sunday 17th May 2015.

Les Ransom; one of John Frost's men from that battle for the bridge at Arnhem during 1944, he responded to an invitation from the Yorkshire region executive of the PRA to lay a wreath at the annual Service & Parade held at Hardwick Hall. Les passed through here during 1942, which was then the nucleus for parachute training and physical selection of all British airborne forces.

As an Honoured Guest, he found himself amongst some very distinguished people, including the Colonel Commandant of the Parachute Regiment; Lieutenant General, John G. Lorimar DSO MBE. Les was pleased to report that the General had cleaned his shoes and his turnout was in excellent order, this was good to hear.

This year's event produced a marked improvement on previous, all credit for this must go to the event Co-ordinator: Brian Dingley and his team for putting in a tremendous effort.

The order for the day's events went as follows: The Ravens free fall team, a Dakota flypast, Service & wreath laying, Parade & March past, including standards, the afternoon continued with a reception buffet at the Doe Lea Club, including 1940's entertainment with plenty of liquid refreshments. The 299 men attending had a very enjoyable day, and again we must thank Les for his commitment to this association.

Matters arising:

Blazer Badges: Chris Shillito has sourced a new supplier for our badges: embroidered direct to the blazer £1.50 or separate badge on a black background at a cost of £2.50 each, it's recommended that you go through him.

Association group photos: at £2.00 each, please contact Tony Costello on 01482 632100.

Possible Normandy trip for 2016: Craig Gadd has offered to research and report on the costing for a 4 or 5 day trip through the Veterans not forgotten organization, probably need 15 – 20 to make it viable. This may be as well as Arnhem, it's up to you.

Web – site: Craig Gadd gave an update on this, hopefully up and running in the not too distant future.

Old films & videos: Dave Hinds is in the process on copying past Squadron footage obtained from Tony Kitching onto discs.

Bus stop winner this week is Tony Irwin.

Welfare report: good to see Bud Pougher back in the fold and rearing to go.

Charlie Lickiss sent his apologies; he's got all sorts of back problems at the moment.

Johnny Mace has looked up Graham Beaumont and reports that he's had his surgery for his aneurisms, he turned black and blue but is now on the mend.

Items from members:

Fred Grey has sent our Archivist Tony Irwin a large package of photos and memorabilia from his time spent with 299 during the 1950's, this was passed around with great interest. Tony has thanked Fred for this valued piece of 299's history and we all look forward to him dropping into one of our meetings when he's next in Hull.

The American Wings certificate for **Ernie Venus**, (Arnhem Vet.) and ex 299 man, has finally come to light, Ernie died a few years ago with his ashes dispersed on Ginkel Heath by the Squadron, courtesy of the 82nd Airborne from Fort Bragg. Tony is in the process of finding his next of kin.

Connor Bowden: Dean Ideson (Uncle) informed the meeting that Connor (Light Dragoons) and Grandson of our old mate, the late Col. Bowden has developed into a first class Cricketer, he has being selected to captain the Army's first eleven, we offer him our congratulations.

Tony Costello informed the meeting that **Stan Johnston** has died and he requested support from this association for his funeral on 9/6/2015. Stan (ex Green Howards) was the owner of the land on which the Eden Prison Camp was built during WW2 and is now the thriving museum and focal point for many military events and occasions. Volunteers with standards are Les Ransom, Paul Sims and Tony Costello and we thank them for stepping forward at such short notice.

The Chairman: Bill Drayton then closed the meeting, thanking all for a very constructive evening.

Next Meeting: To be held at the "Minerva" Corporation Pier, Hull, at 2000hrs on Friday 3rd July 2015.

Dates for your diary:

Airborne Forces Day at Eden Camp 11th July 2015

Admission free for wearer's of the maroon beret..! Standards are to be paraded.

Summer Ball at the Middleton Barracks, Hull, Saturday 1st August 2015. (Details to follow).

Memorial Day at the Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, Nr York, on Sunday 6th September 2015

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2015

One trip this year: 17th – 21st September 2015, (28 attending).

Wreath laying at Cromwell Lock: 27th September 2015. (Confirmed).

It is the 40th Anniversary of the Cromwell Lock disaster when 10 of our Scottish friends perished whilst taking part in the **Trent Chase exercise of 1975.** (Further details to follow).

The AEA Reunion / AGM 16th – 19th October at Coventry. (for more info see the Sec.)

Remembrance Sunday: 8th November 2015.

