



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 1st June 2018 at the 'Minerva'

Members Present: B. Bilton, J. Brooks, I. Chapman, G. Coe, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, D. Harvey, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, J. Mace, M. Maddison, D. Meekin, K. Millington, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, J. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock, D. Woollas.

Apologies: F. Gray, R. Gill, J. Duffy, B. Steele, M. Holdsworth, M. Beardshaw, K. Blacker, N. Cooper, A. Foster, D. French, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, A. Lee, G. Newton, M. Ovington, J. Palmer, L. Smith, B. Steel.

N/B: message sent to the Chairman from Gazza Newton regretting his absence again through ill health, (still recovering from his massive surgery), he will make every effort to attend the July meeting.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting by announcing the sad loss of **Bunny Brown**, most of you will be well aware of his death by now, he had passed away quietly at the hospice, in his sleep just before 05:00 am on the morning of the 17th May, with most of his family around his bed. Condolences were sent from this association to the family and we took time out for his remembrance. This well-loved, liked & respected man is going to be missed, not only by his family and the 'Brummie' boys, but throughout the wider airborne brotherhood where he acted as a beacon of experience and common sense.

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

Proposed by – **Dave Harvey**

Seconded by – **Johnny Mace**

Treasure's Report:

Martin brought the meeting up to date with our funds and was pleased to announce that the hotel in Arnhem is now paid for this year with a provisional booking for 2019. More on this subject from the Chairman.

Correspondence: Relevant incoming over the past month.

John Lee (President of the AEA), email received 7/5/2018.

Thank you for your comprehensive report of the branches AGM/OGM. It certainly was a busy evening. Sorry to have landed you all with the Data Protection Regs., but it has to be done.

I am currently wading through a 300+ page document prepared by **Dave Pace** for the association in connection with the above, so I will be a bit quiet for some time. We are having an Executive Committee meeting on the 20th May, so I hope to have this finalised and up and running shortly after. It is some legislation we as an association of like-minded individuals could do without.

Please pass on my best wishes to all 299 members and hope to see some of you at future events.

Regards **John**.

Dave Rutter (Editor of the AEA Journal), email received 7/5/2018.

As always a remarkable AGM/OGM meeting. Some really great tributes made to very worthy recipients within your association. Great to see **Les** still going strong at 96yrs. The association photo illustrates the pride of the members wearing your very own sweatshirt. Great credit to your hard working committee, (nobody ever volunteers to take over).

Well done to you all, **Dave**.

Fred Gray (ex AEA Archivist & 299 man), email received 8/5/2018.

Many thanks for your informative minutes of the AGM of 299 Association, what a superb branch you have, brings back many good memories of those wonderful two years I spent with 299 Squadron before joining the Regular Army all those years ago.

I shall be in Hull from Friday 8th June to meet with a mate coming home from OZ. My next visit home will be in July and there is a good possibility I will at last be able to attend your meeting on 3rd August if all goes to plan.

My very best wishes to all members **Fred**.

Steve Brown (Sec. Birmingham), Message Bd on 17/5/2018.

Hello Troops,

It is with a saddened, heavy heart that I must inform you that my brother **Bunny Brown** passed away this morning, 17th May, shortly before 05:00 am. Most of the family were with **Bunny** after receiving a call around midnight saying to come to the hospice. He passed away peacefully in his sleep.

As most of you know **Bunny** was the glue that held the Birmingham branch together, he will be sadly missed by all.

Please allow time for the family to grieve. Thank you **Steve Brown**.

Over the next few days a series of sympathy messages appeared on the message board;

Craig Gadd: Condolences to you and the rest of the family **Steve**. A very big loss for all. RIP **Bunny**.

Chris Shillito: A true 131 legend and friend of 299, RIP **Bunny**, God bless.

Gaz Coe: Thinking of his family and friends of which there are many, a sad loss for us all, fair well my P Coy friend.

Mike Tindle: Hello **Steve**, very sorry to hear about **Bunny**, he was one of the best. He filled a large space in the AEA and it will not be the same without him.

Mick Beardshaw: Much respected member of 131, will be sadly missed.

Tony Foster: Condolences to the family.

Steve Brown: (Sec. Birmingham AEA), message Bd. 22/5/2018.

Bunny's funeral to be held on Friday 8th June, 11:00hrs at Woodlands Cemetery, Chelmsley Wood, Solihull, Birmingham, B46 1DP.

Dress: Blazers, Berets, Ties and Decorations.

The wake will be at the Chelmsley and District Conservative Club, 174 Bosworth Drive, Birmingham, B37 5DZ, Phone 0121 6938377.

Any flowers can be sent to Jan's home address: C/O **Jan Brown** 134 Perch Avenue, Chelmsley Wood, Solihull, Birmingham, B37 5NB.

Gilbert Nicol: forwarded email from the President PRA Scotland & Nth Ireland received 22/5/2018.

I am writing about Staff Sergeant "**Micky**" **Yule** who is trying to raise the money fund his preparations for the GB Paralympics Team at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Micky served with 9 Para Sqn RE between December 1997 and June 2003, based at Rhine Barracks in Aldershot, as a part of 5th Airborne Brigade. He was medically discharged in November 2013 as a Staff Sergeant after he had stepped on an IED in Afghanistan on Op Herrick 12 and had both legs amputated above the knee. He was a member of the Army Weight lifting Team and is now beginning his journey to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. He is looking for potential sponsors to help him achieve this by assisting him with his training costs which are substantial. If you can help:

Michael Yule, 90 Raley Rd, Locks Heath, Southampton, SO31 6PD.

Mb: 07950681602. Email: mickyyule@hotmail.com

Micky is attending our Arnhem Pilgrimage this year.

Rich Gill: email received 24/5/2018.

I am not going to be able to attend the next meeting as I am away on business again. However, I thought I would drop you a mail on the GDPR topic. I understand your concern and I think the situation is very confusing, but I have listened to a few different things and I think because of the circumstances of the association, (you/we), we are OK. I attach a link to ICO <https://ico.org.uk/> which is the data protection web site, and listened to a programme on the BBC radio which discussed this subject from one of the guys who wrote the legislation. From my understanding I think the key thing is transparency and just a way to opt out if you don't want to receive any more mail, and that's it, other than keeping any personal details secure. Anyway, hopefully the web site helps allay any fears, and if you listen to the BBC programme this may also help..???

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/play/bOb39r8s> it's Wake up to money programme.

As you well know the RAF Parachute Training School motto is "Knowledge Dispels Fear"Yeah, right.

All the best Gilly.

Dave Pace (AEA Web master): email received 26/5/2018.

THIS INFORMATION IS ONLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE AEA (AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION). If you have not joined, and want to, ask for an application form from the Secretary.

Dear AEA members you may be aware of the EU General Data Protection Regulations, (GDPR) which has recently come into force, in order for the AEA to comply with these requirements we need you to complete and return the attached document.

If you've visited the AEA website recently you'll have noticed the redesign and inclusion of a `**member's only**` option on the navigation bar. The member's content requires you to login in order to view it, usernames and passwords have been set up and will be sent out over the next few days.

This email plus attached consent forms was forwarded to the 299's mailing list on 26/5/2018.

N/B: Very important. If you want to remain a viable member of the AEA filling in this form is necessary, if you choose to ignore this you will just become a name on a list, therefore PLEASE scan your completed form and sent it to Steve Morris AEA Data Protection Officer bsf968@gmail.com For those of you not familiar with this procedure talk to the Secretary.

This `form filling in` is not a requirement for remaining a member of the 299 Association.

Steve Brown: (Sec Birmingham AEA), email received 28/5/2018. **Toscaig Bridge.**

Troops, please find below and attached information from **Eamon Smyth** regarding the replacement of 131 Squadron plaques placed on bridges built by the Squadron in 1996 and dedicated to the ten 300 Troop soldiers who died on the river Trent at Cromwell lock , Newark.

This will be up for discussion at the Birmingham meeting on the 6th June so your input would be appreciated.

The same day forwarded from **Eamon Smyth:** attached is proposed layout of replacement for the plaque on Toscaig Bridge, `copies passed around`

The existing plaque is 230mm wide x 125mm deep, so the new one will be more substantial for fixing and allow more text. I believe the RN workshop in Portsmouth has the kit to inscribe RE Badge, Dagger and Pegasus hopefully.

Steve Brown: forwarded email from **Eamon Smyth** received 30/5/2018. **Toscaig Bridge.**

Hi Guys, Below is extract of text on way to RN workshop for comment, to await AEA approval of replacement plaque.

Attached is general arrangement and wording of replacement plaque for approval by Airborne Engineers Association. I will supply a polished brass plate 3mm thick x 350mm wide x 250mm deep, dependent on workshop deeming this to be suitable, (it's a miracle the existing crap plastic thing is still there). They also put a plastic one on the other higher bridge unbeknown to me, which vanished ages ago.

I also attach the emblems to be positioned as shown on the general arrangement. As colour will not be possible I would suggest the Engineer emblem at the top be as shown in black. Likewise the Commando dagger will probably be best displayed without the DZ Flash diamond in the background but retain the 131 superimposed. The Pegasus again without colours is best displayed as shown in silhouette, with no background.

The text size will determine the layout but the Dagger and Pegasus height to match the 3 lines of text with the 28th Sept date line below this. The RE emblem at the top can be sized to centralise the height setting of the layout and being bigger should assist engraving as it is quite intricate.

If you can pass this info onto workshop for any comments they have to achieve best results, also any cost involved. I will, once plaque is approved, suggest AEA collect a donation for Royal Naval Benevolent Trust to show gratitude for assistance, also if it is acceptable for a memorial, an inscription of producing workshop designation might be a nice touch at the base of the plaque.

N/B; 299 Troop, 131 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers (v) built this bridge in 1996, the old plaque was made from plastic and has had its day, therefore any suggestions from 299 on the design would be lost in it all, because all decisions have already been made with 299 playing no part in this development at all, 'other than the building of the Bridge', of course, the Birmingham Branch of the AEA are coordinating the task although still at the planning stage as yet, costings have not been calculated, but brass replacing plastic has to be the more permanent option, if you can keep the scrap men away.!

Chairman's Comments:

Chris ran through the plans for the funeral on the 8th June, allocation of cars, and pick up times for all personal able to attend, if you were not at the meeting, or are unsure of your travel details talk to the committee. Those travelling that day will need an early start, parade at the Cemetery commences at 10:30hrs, remember you will be in the heart of the midlands at commuter times, everything grinds to a halt, therefore make allowances.

The 299 Standard will be taken in case it's needed, stand by for carrying.

ARNHEM 2019.

THURSDAY 19TH --- MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

The Chairman reiterated the fact that this association has a provisional hotel group bookings for the 75th anniversary for our Arnhem Pilgrimage of 2019, hotel rooms are at a premium for this event, therefore the association intends to open up a list for these places at the next meeting, (July), confirmed only with a deposit, on a first come first served basis, with this year's attendees taking first preference along with the late withdrawals.

Therefore if you are interested book your place at the next meeting.

Because this is **Martin Tindle's** last year as our Treasurer, and will finish his 15yr stint at our next AGM in May 2019, I put it to the floor that the position of Vice Treasurer could be created to carry through to completion the financial organization of our Arnhem trip for 2019, thus leaving **Martin** free for the day to day running of other association business. **Glenn Ratten** had volunteered his services for this role, therefore a proposer was asked for, and this came from **Pete Robson** which was seconded by **Tony Weldon** with the vote **for** been unanimous.

AUGUST MEETING

The Minerva is not available to the association for our August meeting on the 3rd, because of some festival on the river front, therefore this meeting voted in keeping the same date and using the Ship Inn at Dunswell and we have the OK from **Jonno Palmer**, he comes to the rescue again.

Items from members:

Tony Irwin, (Archivist & Standard bearer) intends to parade our standard at the Hull Cenotaph at 11:00hrs on Wednesday 6th June in remembrance for those who fell on D-day 1944, those attending with berets please.

Terry Cunningham, brought news from the Doncaster lads and all are doing well after their many health issues, they send their best wishes to all at the association and **Bud Oldfield** regrets that none of them are fit enough just yet to attend **Bunny's** funeral, and send their apologies.

Craig Gadd, brought news from the CEA, (Commando Engineers Association) who are in the process of possibly commissioning a precision chronometer, (posh watch), if there is enough interest out there, it would be sold as limited editions and of the highest quality, estimated costings around £2000, now there's a bargain for you rich ex-Commandos, for more info contact **Craig**. Could ask if they do terms..!

Gaz Coe: asked for this association to show their appreciation to the men who volunteered for extra duties when needed? One volunteer is worth ten pressed men, thanks lads.

Art Stimpson, Glenn Ratten, Alan Lee & Mart Tindle.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Simbo's bus stop: one winner this month that **Old Faithful Airlie Bird Ray Franklin.**

Next Meeting: will be held at the `Minerva` at 20:00hrs on the 6th July 2018, Corporation Pier, Hull.

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.

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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