



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 7th June 2019 at the `Minerva`

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, A. Foster, D. French, A. Green, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, M. Lawrence, J. Mace, M. Maddison, R. Meachen, K. Millington, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, M. Sadler, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, B. Steele, C. Walker, T. Walker, A. Weldon, D. Woollas.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, K. Russell, Mart. Tindle, M. Hall, A. Homan, J. Thompson, R. Swatman, A. Stimpson, C. Henrickson, D. Hines, S. Hoyle, D. Meekin, J. Brooks, A. Costello, C. Duggan, R. Franklin, C. Gadd.

Guests: Benny Bridges.

N/B:

Open apology from the Secretary to **K. Millington** for missing his name off the members present list at the last meeting (AGM), **Kev**, you got lost in the crowd.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting by asking **Derek French** to recite the Exhortation in remembrance of those who died on D-Day

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

Proposed by – **Mike Beardshaw**

Seconded by – **Frank Pougher**

Treasure's Report: **Glenn** reported he'd paid the associations `domain` (message board facility £18), and that our funds are in a healthy state. He then asked the meeting how they felt about opening a savings account to reap in any interest availability, **Les Ransom proposed & Mike Maddy seconded** and was voted in unanimously.

Correspondence: John Ferry, (departing AEA Chairman), e-mail dated 30th May 2019

Members; attached is the National OGM minutes, (passed around). I can now officially hand over to **Steve Wallis**.

There are a few outstanding minutes' points that will need to be addressed at the AGM in October,

- a) A proposal to amend £500 Standing Minutes that is voted over to the AGM hosting branch each year.
- b) Chatham Branch requests for Honorary Membership.
- c) Proposal to set up an on-line shop.

We have also had an agreed amendment to our Constitution regarding membership.

Ubique my friends, see you at the AGM/Gala Ball in Banbury.

N/B: Ubique; is the motto of the Royal Artillery and also the Royal Engineers and is Latin for "everywhere"

Marten Hall, e-mail 5/6/2019, sends his apologies to us all for his absence at this meeting and he has a good reason this time.

He's going to work with an anti-poaching unit in the Kruger National Park in South Africa, will try and send a few pictures if possible.

Forwarded part letter from John Lee, dated 6/6/2019 via Dave Rutter

Dear friends of Rock Barracks,

It is with great sadness and heavy heart that I must inform you of the death, over the weekend of **Lance Corporal Darren Jones of 9 Para Sqn, 23 Para Engr Regt**, who died as a result of drowning.

L/Cpl Jones was in Normandy, France, as part of the support team enabling the 75th Anniversary of the D-day landings.

J.G.J. Robinson RE

Lt Col

Commanding Officer 23 Para Engr Regt.

Tim Van der kraan (Chatham Branch) email dated 7/6/2019. Dear all, received the following information from **Kevin Fisher**.

Total donations received in memory of the late **Michael John Fisher** was £13336.03 (of which £40 is in aid of **MacMillan Cancer Care**).

Kevin, on behalf of all the family & **Wendy**, would like to thank you all for your generosity. Fantastic news.

Social Calendar: Clay Pigeon Shoot at Bygott Wood, Cherry Burton, Near Beverley. Saturday 11th May 2019

17 attended this shoot organised by **Tony Kitching**, the weather was on our side again and we were joined by **Mike Ozzy Holdsworth** of the Brummy kind, he came up the day before, staying at **Les Ransom's** local The Ship Inn at Dunswell and was joined by a few of the lads for a friendly drink.

The shooting was over by 14:00hrs with the **Winner: Paul Hairsine, Second: Tony Kitching, Third: Martin Sadler** and after presentations it was off to the Bay Horse in Cherry Burton for a first class buffet supplied by the pub land lord. This was a great day enjoyed by all and it's a big thanks to **Tony Kitch**.



Martin Sadler

Paul Hairsine

Tony Kitching

Chairman's Comments: Chris drew attention to the phenomenal work been carried out by **Dave Hines (Web Master)** on the "Roll of Honour" site which is found on the association home page, he reminded us all that this final act of remembrance for our friends and comrades ensures their names will always be commemorated, never to be forgotten.

It would be appreciated if any of you can help with photos and/or scripts for the remaining neglected names still awaiting attention, and many thanks to those who have already contributed, especially **Fred Gray**, an absolute expert in fact finding on past members, **Fred** was hoping to be at the meeting tonight, but unfortunately health issues have got in the way, we wish him well.

Two men turned out to represent this association at the Hull Cenotaph Memorial Service on the 6th June, **Tony Costello** and yet again **Tony Irwin** carrying our standard, the Chairman thanked both men for their outstanding dedication to duty.

This association is very lucky in having a professional photographer amongst our members; **Tony Foster** who produces top quality prints whenever needed, always makes himself available, **Chris** thanked him for his service.

Chris congratulated **Paul Sims** for getting himself to this evenings meeting, with help from **tony Irwin**, **Paul** is going through a terrible time at the moment with serious leg problems, suffering great pain, (crutches essential), we can only hope the medics can sort him out quickly.

The Chairman then asked the meeting to show their appreciation to **Eamon Smyth**, former SSM 131 Ind Cdo RE for his work in renewing the plaque on the remembrance bridge at Toscaig, built by 299 in the Applecross area of Scotland during 1996. The new plaque is fixed, see photos, also the template has being delivered to Middleton Barracks.

URGENT: MILLION VETS MARCH

The Chairman appealed for supporting our Northern Ireland Veterans by attending a gathering in Hull on Saturday 8th June 2019. This gathering is hoping to draw people from all over Britain in protest against the many political prosecutions pending against these 70+ year old veterans, who it has already being proven that they have nothing illegal to answer for.

This is just one of many "Million Veterans Marches" to be carried out throughout the country, and is calling for "Justice for the Northern Ireland Veterans" and has been organised by the original group.

The Hull March details as follows: Muster: 13:00hrs at West St. to form up on South St and march to the Cenotaph, where speakers Dennis Hutchings (facing attempted murder charges) & Simon Bean MBE will ask you all to stand with soldier F he needs you.

We need to show this Government that we will not accept this kind of injustice being shown to our soldiers.

N/B: as I am typing these minutes thousands of ex-military have occupied Hulls city centre, many on motor cycles calling themselves "The Rolling Thunder" 299 Association members are out in force and led the march to the Cenotaph where speakers will make themselves heard. No obvious sign of any media presence, but plenty of official looking people with cameras taking great interest in this peace full demonstration, using all the trappings of a thoroughly corrupt administration with everything to fear.

Matters arising: The Scottish Branch of the AEA held a "get together" at the Guards Club in Edinburgh on the 12th April 2019 in memory of the men that were killed in the Battle of Al Milah, Redfan 1965, the 54th anniversary. This function allowed the members to present **John Donaldson** with a well-deserved thank you for his efforts in his struggle for the GSM with Clasp South Arabia for the killed & wounded men in this action, they presented him with a personalised engraved decanter and glasses, his APJI wings, along with his name, rank & number made up the engravings along with a bottle of his favourite tipple, **John** was astounded with this gift, and very grateful.

More news from John in Scotland; the struggle goes on for the GSM with clasp South Arabia for all the 131 Para Eng. Regt men posted to Aden during their tour of ops in 1965, after receiving a load of waffle from the Minister for Defence **Lord Howe PC** who listed many reasons for denying this award, never taking any account of the exceptional circumstances, also the flexibility within criteria that could be used, as pointed out by **John Donaldson**, and frequently used in the past by others in reflecting the chaos arising during operational deployment.

In 2016 **Maurice Cory**, Scottish MP had agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Defence in support for all 131 men from the Aden operation getting the GSM, only to be totally ignored, **John Donaldson** has complained about this to the Conservative party and has received an apology from **Cory** with him blaming his lack of experience for the delay in reply.

He has now promised to try for a face-face with Lord Howe, **Gordon McLeod (Scotland's Association Chairman)** will also write to his good Lordship to express his feelings in no uncertain terms.

News from the Aldershot Branch AGM; Steve Wallis has been elected as the new AEA Chairman, **Steve** is ex 9 Sqn spending 9 years in Airborne forces we wish him well.

Chris Chambers gave the run down on **Bernard (Bunny) Brown's** last drop on Saturday 25th May at Netheravon parachute centre. **Bunny's** cremated remains were released at 2,000 ft and this was witnessed by his family & friends. He would not have wanted it in any other way, He will never be forgotten.

AEA – AGM/Reunion 2019 will be held at the Whately Hall Hotel, Banbury, during the W/end 4 – 6 Oct 2019. The hotel is now fully booked, anybody wishing to attend the `Gala` dinner must notify the Whately Hall Hotel, and pay, but you will have to find your own digs, unless you're travelling it.

Cromwell Lock 2019: Parade & Service is to be held on Sunday 22nd September which is of course the Arnhem Commemoration week end, when almost everybody is in Holland. The date is set by the Newark PRA who organize this event every year. I do believe **John Lee (AEA President)** is aware of the situation but cannot get my head around the fact that the disaster occurred on the 28th of the month with the Sunday before this date always taking preference for the service, even when it's the Arnhem week end, therefore denying this event to many, including men that actually took part in that fateful exercise.

Items from members: **Mike Maddison** ex RAF Regt, & ex 299 Commando Engineer.

Maddy led a team of 8 setting out and completed the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge over the weekend 11th & 12th May 2019.

This event was planned to coincide with the Mental Awareness week which was coordinated by the **MIND Charity**. These volunteers call themselves the **Blue light Group** and are drawn from our emergency services raising money through sponsorship to help with mental health issues amongst their own people.

It turned out to be a tough old challenge, enduring all weathers, including snow & hail, but they all finished with many of them drawing deeply upon their own military training, this was well worth it because they managed to raise £3000, that's a well done **Mike & team**.

Simbos bus Stop: one winner this month **Pete Robbo** with knickers.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: Friday 5th July 2019, at 20:00hrs in the Minerva, Nelson St. Hull.

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.

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.

CROMWELL LOCK MEMORIAL SERVICE Sunday 22nd September 2019 at the lock, TBC.

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.

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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, point of contact Paddy Nolan, (ex 1 Para), for all your problems

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

Tel: 01482 485956, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org

