



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 4th June 2021 at the Minerva commencing 17:45hrs.

This meeting is only possible because of the careful planning by the management within the Minerva, who had to conform within the guide lines laid out by the government due to the viral pandemic. Attendees were requested to respect all precautions and procedures in place.

Members Present: D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, C. Gadd, C. Ham, D. Harvey, A. Irwin, M. Lawrence, J. Mace, R. Meachen, F. Pougher, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Russell, C. Shillito, P. Sims, Mart. Tindle, A. Weldon, Major C. Wilcock, P. Wolstenholme.

Apologies: F. Gray, D. Woollas, S. Steele, J. Thompson, J. Harrison, A. Foster, D. Meekin.

Guests: A soldier of that very special kind Sgt B. Frazier.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present by stating that this is the first meeting for well over a year and how very pleased he was in seeing such a good turnout, he introduced our special guest and thanked him for his interest in this association, he then invited **Tony Irwin** to deliver the Exhortation before opening the meeting with an update on the people we have lost over the past 14 months; John Sims (Paul's father) died 3rd January 2021, Mike Gadd (Craig's father) died 23rd January 2021, Les Ransom died 8th February 2021, Christine Coe (Secretary's wife) died on 5th April 2020, these people all played a massive part in the general wellbeing of this association and will be sadly missed.

The shortness of life is very cruel, but none of us can stay, regardless of our earthly station.

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

Proposed by – **Craig Gadd**

Seconded by – **Frank Pougher**

Treasure's Report:

The Treasurer **Glenn Ratten** gave a full run down on the financial status of this association which remains healthy, then he went on to explain the current situation with regards to the **Normandy Trip** which was postponed last year because of Covid 19. At this moment in time the trip is officially still on, although France is currently on the amber light for travel, all this could change and we may have a clearer assessment of the situation by the next meeting in July.

Q: Where do we stand? We have each paid £50 deposit and this is non-refundable unless the tour operator itself cancels the trip, **Glenn** is still collecting monies for those who are still game for going, and this will sit in our bank until needed, anyone wishing to drop out will **lose their deposit**, hopefully we will know if the trip is definitely on before the tour operator decides to ask for the full payment, as happened last year, (outrageous), hiding behind the pandemic and trapping the punters. Sorry but that's the best we can do at the moment.

Correspondence:

The Secretary **Gary Coe** wishes to thank this association and its associates for the tremendous support received and given by so many of you upon the death of his wife **Christine** of 53 years, his phone never stopped ringing, and because the pandemic was at its full height and he was isolated and on an enforced 24/7 curfew, things got pretty desperate. **Christine** died in **Gary's** arms, at home from the corvid on 5th April 2020 and because he was living in a God fearing Christian village there should have been no end of help, but unfortunately couldn't get the Christians out from under their duvets, self-preservation mixed with fear runs very deep out here in the sticks. 299 Association men came to the rescue, they brought him food including those Royal Marine stews, thank god for the Navy, but most importantly you people helped him in so many ways in reinforcing his resilience for coping with his many problems faced during his isolation and grief. **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.** (Submitted by a friend).

We lost **Les Ransom** on the 8th February 2021 and his family have asked me to thank the 299 Association, also its family and friends for the dignity and care shown in laying him to rest. They know how much this association has meant to him during the last quarter of his 98 years, plus the many lifelong friends this partnership generated.

He brought British Airborne history to this association and so generously shared it amongst us all, he never served with 299 or the RE and was therefore an Associate Member on both counts, but he proudly wore the 299 Association badge on his blazer and befriended anyone who could be bothered to take the time of day, he was an example to us all. **RIP Les.**

N/B:

For those of you who have the means, his eulogy is on the home page of 299's website and for those without, you will find a print out in with your minutes. The order of his funeral service was passed around the meeting.

SPONSORSHIP THANKYOU'S received from **Jasmine Briggs** and **Lee Mapplebeck** to all those who sponsored them in their individual challenges, we wish them well. Kilimanjaro for Meningitis research and Push Biking marathon for numerous Police charity's respectively, ((**Lee** is still in recovery from a massive stroke and is still a serving Police Officer).

An annual summary had been prepared for the year 2019 --- 2020, but the country went into lock down before it could be delivered at the intended AGM scheduled for May 2020. I will release it with the minutes of this meeting and it will give us all a chance to find where we left off, treating the pandemic as just another bad dream.

131 Sqn News: Major Chris Wilcock coordinated a lap top link up with Capt. Stuart Jordan, 24 years' experience as a reservist Commando RE with 131 Sqn, his current responsibilities is as Plant Commander for 59 Commando Sqn RE, earth moving equipment & personnel. He gave a very interesting run down on 131 who are currently 60% fully manned with SHQ & Sheldon being very strong. Deployment updates and continuous support for HADR (Humanity & Disaster Relief) in various parts of the world. The future looks very positive for the Squadron. The meeting thanked Stuart for his update.

Social Calendar: A trip to the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln is still in the pipe line, but like everything else we cannot nail it down for certain until we can break free from this virus, hopefully by the next meeting things may become more certain. Interested parties give your name to Pete Robson on Tel: 01964 562799.

Chairman's Comments: Chris brought news of Jim Cherry who has moved permanently to a place called Hassam on the German/Dutch Border. Jim is a well-respected 299 Commando and an ex RAF Regiment Gunner. It would be nice to meet up again on one of our Arnhem trips. We wish him well in his new home.

He also reminded the meeting that this association has missed 2 AGM's because of the restrictions, thus denying the membership their democratic rights of voting in new committee members as wanted, every year the 299's committee stand down allowing this to happen; **BACK US OR SACK US.**

The next meeting planned for the 2nd July may well be the next AGM if the conditions allow, again nothing certain as yet, watch the message board.

Items from members: Tony Irwin reminded the meeting that he will be parading our standard at 11:00hrs on Sunday 6th June 2021 at the Hull Cenotaph, 77 year anniversary of D – day, please feel free to attend.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: July 2nd 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.

“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 Tel: 01757 700016.

Cromwell Lock disaster Service of Remembrance (timings TBC) on Sunday 26th September 2021 at the Memorial Garden next to the Lock near Newark. RSVP Mike Holdsworth on mholdsworth218@gmail.com Tel: 07956429154.

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, cls299@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01482 806690, Mb: 07877277288.

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

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Tel: 01757 700016, Mb: 07795248328.

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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

