



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 1st March 2019 at the `Minerva`

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, D. French, C. Gadd, D. Harvey, C. Henrickson, A. Homan, S. Hoyle, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, J. Mace, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, K. Millington, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Saddington, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, B. Steele, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, A. Garforth, A. Foster, A. Green, K. Russell, M. Maddison, S. McMahon, D. Woollas, J. Duffy, G. Beaumont, J. Brooks, C. Duggan, R. Franklin, D. Hines, A. kitching, C. Lickiss, N. Sisson, J. Thompson, A. Alcock.

Dave Woollas's apologies for absence from the last meeting was not recorded, (Secretary's mistake), he accepts the responsibility for his gaff and his apologies have been accepted, **Dave** is having a rough time of it at the moment, one knee replaced already, (too many prays), with the next in waiting, we wish him well.

Guests: Pauline Meekin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman: **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened this well attended meeting by introducing a new member **Bob Meachen**, all the way from Doncaster, also a special `hello` to our lady guest **Pauline**.

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

Proposed by – **P. Robson**.

Seconded by – **F. (Bud) Pougher**.

Treasure's Report:

Martin reports that our funds are very healthy and may well need to be in helping our own needy.

Relevant correspondence:

Lt. Col. (Retd.) John Lee, (President AEA), E-mail dated 4/2/2019. Was sorry to learn of **John Davis's** problems (former Recce Sgt. 299 Sqn). I worked with him on many exercises & social events during my time with 131, we had plenty of good times in the old days.
Please send on my best wishes to him via **Bud Oldfield**, or other members.

Dave Rutter, (Sec. Aldershot branch & AEA Journal editor), E-mail dated 4/2/2019. Thanks for the minutes of the last meeting. With any luck will hopefully touch base with some of the 299 lads during the Arnhem weekend, I'm staying at the Holliday Inn hotel with the Yorkshire branch men, should be quite an occasion, hope to see you all there.

Micke Holdsworth (Bir'm Branch AEA) & Gil Nicol (Sec Scot'd Branch AEA) Forwarded E-mail conservation between these men dated 4/2/2019, regarding the **CROMWELL LOCK MEMORIAL**. Those of you who know **Ozzie Holdsworth** will appreciate that I'm not going to reproduce the full script (essay), but will try and portray the essence of their conservation.

There appears to be a communication breakdown between the various groups who lay claims of responsibility for the upkeep of this memorial and surrounding gardens at the lock, many groups are willing to help and the **'Jocks'** appreciate this, they have also agreed to release branch funds to help with expenditure and looked towards **John Lee (President)** for guidance. **Oz** gave the full history from the day of the tragedy, spelling out Newark PRA's involvement who **John** tends to communicate with because they are the nearest airborne mob to Cromwell village, also they seem to relish responsibility for the monument, including setting the dates for the annual service of Remembrance, (the full script is available upon request), many other helpers/gardeners either just turn up or come with the blessing of the Lock Keeper who I believe was on duty on that fateful night. My personal view is that I don't really care who looks after the memory of these boys as long as somebody does, I say the more the merrier, this association has men that were competing in the chase that night, and joined in the search for the bodies of their missing comrades, whilst these men are able, care is guaranteed, because Cromwell is too many miles away for our Scottish friends. **WE ARE ALL 131 RE, red or green, makes no difference.**

Dave Rutter, E-mail dated 6/2/2019. **Maj. Gen. Geoff Fields final farewell** took place at St Johns Church Saddlescombe, (East Sussex), on 22/2/2019 at 14:00hrs. He died at the age of 77 years and was Commander Royal Engineers (CRE) during the Falklands war.
He was the CO 36 RE Regiment dispatched to the South Atlantic in 1982 as a part of 5 Infantry Brigade.

Simbo: message Bd. dated 10/2/2019. Hi gents, went to see **Mac** yesterday (Sat), he was full of spirit, 'not the bottle type. May I add', we swapped a few stories and had a few laughs, he had a good colour too his face.

Alan Lee: message Bd. dated 14/2/2019. Hi Guys, **Mac** is out of hospital and back home now at 42 Millport Drive, (Flats), floor 10, it's the middle tower block just off Hessle High Road, Boothferry Estate. I left him a 131 pic of himself parachuting to get strength from in his recovery efforts.
He really needs us guys, so visit if you can, it's a real lift for him.

Terry Cunningham: message Bd. dated 19/2/2019. Hi Guys, I was in Doncaster last Thursday 14/2/2019, I called in to see **Bud Oldfield**, and he's in good health and sends his regards to all, he is still hoping to attend the AGM in May along with **Nev. Smales**, I didn't get to see **Nev. or John Davis** as I had a funeral to attend. C U at the next meeting.

Tim. Van der kraan, (Sec. Chatham Branch). E-mail dated 26/2/2019 regarding the funeral service for:

MICHEAL JOHN FISHER

To be held on Tuesday 19th March 2019 at 13:30 hrs, (please be early, full Church expected).

At St. Barbara's Garrison Church, Maxwell Road, Brompton, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5SG.

Dress: Blazer's, Berets, Decorations.

Further info contact Tim on Tel: 01634 671822, (Mb) 07718373547.

Adam Garforth (GARTH) one of our many, much valued X pats sent an E-mail on 27/2/2019 to the Secretary in response to his meeting reminder posted on the association message board, and it reads:

"Down in Malaysia on a visa run in **LANGKAWI** where the beer is cheap and the girls are ugly `oh, o take me home` - bit of Guns & Roses for you there **Gaz**, would rather be in the Minerva. Sorry won't be able to make your association meeting, unfortunately, take care **Garth**"

N/B: I just couldn't keep his reply to myself, I consider **Garth's** apology for missing the March meeting the best I've ever received yet, this gets him first prize for sincerity.

Steve Brown (Sec, Bir'm Branch), forwarded E-mail dated 27/2/2019, regarding 2018022-veterans_cards-R

Members: click on the link below, it may be of some use to you. The cards are rolling out now for service leavers from 2018, but will be giving them out to all eventually.

It is meant to be used in conjunction with NHS care and charities etc.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/new-veterans-id-cards-rolled-out-to-service-leavers>

Social Calendar:

Charity dinner/dance

Pilgrim Bandits on Friday 15th March 2019 at the Village Hotel, Hull. (Doors open 19:00 – 01:00.)

Guest Speaker: Rusty Firmin B SQN 22 SAS

Dress Code Suited and Booted. May be one or two tickets left, contact **Andy Green** on

Mb: 07967771561 or Sheggs on Mb: 07877277288.

Chairman's Comments:

Chris opened up with a reminder to all those going on this year's **Arnhem Pilgrimage** that there is only 2 meetings left to get your cash in to **Glenn Ratten**, (lucre collector supreme), deadline being the AGM 3rd May.

The association has to meet this requirement for certainty in booking, also in fairness to the many reservists wanting a place on this year's trip, full payment **on time** is the only sure way of guarantying your place.

N/B: please make sure that any friends going on this trip are aware of the conditions, Tommy Burns has dropped off 299's mailing list, ex RAF Regt. please send me his new contact number, thank you.

Rugby Shirts have arrived, but have to go for embroidering, hopefully ready for the next meeting, and they are our choice of dress for the AGM photo shoot, also for this photo, if you can find any hair, please have it cut.

Chris invited **Syd Hoyle** to update the meeting on the wishes of the Yorkshire Branch of the AEA's request for Arnhem vet **Les Ransom's** attendance at some kind of function (still at the planning stage) happening at the 75th anniversary in Holland, we await details coming direct from Mr. Avan der land, Dutch historian & organizer. This is all due to happen on our day of arrival and will have to be considered by the 299's group when the facts are all known, another suggestion put forward by **Weldo** is we go direct to Nijmegen and spend the afternoon there until our hotel rooms are ready. The final decision will be yours, therefore your input is needed.

Syd brought the sad news that another one of our members is having a rough time **Charlie Lickiss** has suffered a bleed on the brain and is not very well, **Syd & Don Shaw** are visiting and will keep us informed.

MONEY:

The money in the association bank belongs to us all and the members will decide how it is spent!

This statement may produce a reaction of a wishful spending spree, but as your Chairman I ask you all to consider the following;

To fulfil the aims of the 299 Association's charter designed by the founder members and put into words by the late **Bill Dick** to be displayed on the headings of every copy of these minutes we will always need cash, this is a fact of life. We can never expect to solve every problem arising amongst the membership and not every problem will need cash, but on some occasions it is essential. Look at the current problems we face!

Another factor is the lack of subscription's; at this moment in time the association funds pays for all the admin costs; postage, printing, website etc. Without funds we would have to collect subs, and we know from experience how difficult this can be, there are over 100 members in 299 Association, some are more active than others, but all deserve equal recognition.

Consider this; what do you do with members who haven't paid their subs? How about the many x pats who wish to be included in the proceedings? If you can answer these questions you need to be on the committee.

None of these factors prohibit the spending upon other pursuits, if you have an idea just put it to the membership for voting, you may just want to give it away to good causes. This is how it stands today, because this is how you wanted it, the next AGM is coming up in May and the questions will be asked again, and if its change that you want, this will be the ideal time to do it.

The funds collected in the association bank account have come from generosity, hard work also the regular attending members who every month play **Simbo's** bus stop, profits usually covers the monthly admin costs. The association continues to flourish because of the support given by you guys, without your support it will fail and cease to exist, therefore your presence, where ever and whenever possible is in essence the 299 Association.

Matters arising:

The Funeral of former WO2 (SSM) Allan Stewart

Craig Gadd informed the meeting of the above funeral of this much respected former 59 Commando Engineer who saw service with 131 Commando Engineers, The service took place at St. Peters Chapel within the Exeter & Devon Crematorium, Topside Rd, Exeter on 7th February 2019 at 13:30 hrs.

Seven 299 Association members travelled down to show their respect at his service, this entailed an overnight stay.

Items from members:

Pete Robson ask the committee if everything possible was been done for the wife of Kenny Russell, regular updates will be kept and reported on.

Tony Irwin reported that the association plaque is now in place at the Hull Minster in readiness for receiving the Standard. Two plaques were made with one being signed by **Rusty Firmin** to be used at a later date.

Allan Lee is to be approached with regards to **Macca's** immediate and long term needs, also **Simbo** is seeking advice from **Paddy Nolan** with regards to available help, before planning further action.

Simbos bus Stop: one winner this month – Gilly with suspenders.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: To be held at the Minerva on 5th April 2019, 20:00 hrs

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

Dates for your diary:

“Always a little further”

THE PILGRIM BANDITS CHARITY are intending to hold an evening's entertainment to take place at the Village Hotel, Hessle, Hull, on Friday 15th March 2019.

This will consist of an evening meal with the after dinner speaker Rusty Fairman, who was the blue team leader at the Iranian Embassy siege.

A full evening is planed including live music, dancing and fund raising activities, it will be a ticketed event, prices & timings to be confirmed later via our point of contact Andy Green.

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.

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.

Vice Chairman: Bill Drayton, dorridrayton@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01482 376259,

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

Treasurer: Martin Tindle, martinrontindle@hotmail.com Tel: 01482 653618, Mb: 07500264558.

Arnhem 2019 booking 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, 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

