



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 6th March 2020 at the 'Minerva'

Members Present: D. Barker, B. Bilton, G. Coe, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, J. Duffy, D. French, R. Gill, D. Harvey, D. Hines, W. Holbrook, A. Irwin, S. Knowles, M. Lawrence, J. Mace, A. McGlynn, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, K. Millington, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Saddington, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, M. Sunderland, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, T. Walker, Lt Col C Wilcock, P. Wolstenholme, D. Woollas.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, A. Weldon, B. Steele, M. Maddison, A. Costello, D. Ideson, C. Duggan, A. Homan, c. Gadd, M. Beardshaw, N. Cooper, J. Brooks, K. Blacker, L. Smith, G. Beaumont, A. Stimpson, R. Swatman, J. Harrison, M. Holdsworth.

Guests: Benny Bridges, Pauline Meekin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present to this well attended meeting then opened by greeting our guests also the few members not seen for a while, he then invited **Wally Holbrook** to receipt **Binyon's** famous verse of Remembrance.

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

Proposed by – **Kev. Millington**

Seconded by – **Tony Irwin**

Treasure's Report: **Glenn** brought the meeting up to date with the association's financial status which still remains healthy. He reminded those going on the **Normandy Trip** that total payment has to be paid by the June meeting, all places have been taken for this trip. 250 2nd class postage stamps were bought before the expected increase in cost due in mid-March. On behalf of all association member's he wishes to thank the anonymous donator for the £50 thrown into this association's coffers.

Relevant correspondence:

Lt Col Olaf Dudley sent e-mail dated 8/2/2020 titled **EVENTS 2020**

Dear All, It is my pleasure to make you aware of several events and opportunities open to the 131 family of serving and former members over the next few months, see section "Dates for your Dairy"

Call for 131 history,

Please send me your contributions, short or long by 1st April for a book to be published in 2021 to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Commando Engineers as a specific post-WW2 entity. I will concentrate on the Commando side, obviously, but if you have anything from our Parachute days, it will be most gratefully received, with the intention of creating a parallel pre-1978 document.

Association membership: If you are not already a member please join us in the **Royal Engineers Association (REA), Commando Engineer Section**. Ours is the largest section of the REA and runs some excellent events.

It provides a nationwide (and beyond) network for maintaining friendship between serving and retired Commando Engineers and their families, and supporting each other when required. The modest cost of joining is massively offset by the benefits provided, not least including the benevolence available to those who need it most. The more people join, the more good we can do for our communities all around the country. Please contact **Ogre Hamilton** on ogrehamilton@outlook.com Tel: 0777 867 442.

Thanks and best wishes to you all **Olaf Dudley Tel: 07947 340 351**.

FW: Tri Service standard dedication from Mike Holdsworth, e-mail dated 9/2/2020.

Please use link below to view images of the dedication of the new standard described below.

All veterans who have left the armed forces do not wish to join clubs or associations, some do, and some don't, when the veteran passes on. Before they die, they or their family request a standard to ceremoniously parade at the service, all veterans who served deserve to be saluted, but it is very hard to get the appropriate standard, especially for RAFA & RNA and the right regiment or corps.

I have commissioned a Tri Service standard suitable for every veteran from all branches of the armed forces. I am looking for support in funding the standard and accessories, hope you can help:

Tri-Service Veterans standard

We're raising £1000 for new Tri-Service Veterans standards to ceremoniously salute them at their funeral for their service to Monarch & country.

Please donate to my Just Giving Crowdfunding Page and help make it happen.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/peterlloyd?utm_id=1&utm_term=vwjay6b3E

Thanks for your support in anticipation, regards **Peter Lloyd** (Sec, 1944 Alliance) Normandy-Market Garden.
www.fbesa.co.uk

Syd Hoyle e-mail dated 28/2/2020, **FW: message titled HERBERT BAMFORTH BEM**

Syd, Bert passed to a higher fellowship at 1515hrs on Monday 24th February after having a stroke a week earlier from which he never recovered from. No details as yet, Bridlington REA Branch will attend, and Coffin Drapes will be organised from Chatham. **Bert** will be cremated at the Octon Crematorium near Bridlington, timings to follow, **yours Aye Baz (Henderson)**.

Steve Brown (Sec Birm'ham AEA) e-mail dated 3/3/2020, titled **Bamforth Funeral** is to take place at OCTON Crematorium, Near Bridlington on Tuesday 17th March 2020 at 14:30hrs. For those who knew **Bert** he was a long serving member at the Yorkshire branch of the AEA.

Hand written letter from former **CO Capt. B. Oldfield (Bud)** dated 29/2/2020.

Thought you would enjoy the enclosed photos. It was a good send off for our mate **John**. **Thanks to all for making the effort to turn out.**

ORDERS:

Please see that the lads get more drill training for future events..! Hope to see you soon, best wishes, **Bud**.

Reply: Sir, photos much appreciated & passed around the meeting, followed by 10mins drill at the bar.

Fred Gray sends apology via e-mail dated 4/3/2020. I had planned to be up in Hull for this Friday 6th, but unfortunately I had to change my plans. My family had prepared a surprise party for **Betty** & myself for our 60th Wedding Anniversary clashing with dates.

Please pass on my regards to the branch members and I will make plans for a trip to Hull later in the year, best wishes, **Fred**.

`Hot of the press` Fwd: e-mail from D. Rutter titled 1st Parachute Squadron RE information, dated 6/3/2020.

I had the pleasure of chatting to **Tom Gilks** today & I was telling him about a book I have recently been reading that has in it the interesting story of **George (Poacher) Paine, 1st Para Sqn RE**. The book is called `Four Men went to War` (I got a very cheap copy on E bay). The book, as the title describes is the four different stories of soldiers during WW2, apart from **Paine's** interesting account all the way through the war, it has the stories of an American airman, a German & Italian soldier.

The author got to know the men in this book while living in Spain in the late 1980's, when the book was written.

Paine served with the Squadron in North Africa, Italy & Arnhem. He was captured at Arnhem & was a POW escaping close to the end of the war, the book has a photo I had not seen before of Sapper **Gus Woods** in a jeep with **Pinky White** leaning on the back.

I am sure you would at least find **Paine's** story of interest as he mentions some of the other men & describes his time in the various theatres of war with the squadron.

Other items of interest: A new Memorial Orchard of 75 fruit trees is being planted here in Lincolnshire at Grantham by Wyndham Park as a lasting tribute to the men who left Lincolnshire for Arnhem & D-day Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe. They have been fundraising over the past few months & are going to start planting the trees over the next few weeks. It will be known as "The Heroes Orchard" and is close to the centre of Grantham, covering nearly 4 acres. Schools will be able to use the Orchard for outdoor learning with Heritage tree providers & "The Apples & Orchard Project" supplying activities & resources for the children.

I think this is a great way of creating a lasting memorial & also making youngsters aware of WW2.

Maybe it's somewhere worth visiting if you are in the area or coming to the service in September.

Donnington is holding a VE Day event in the park on the 8th May, during this time the church is having its annual Flower Festival & this year's theme will be the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Best wishes **Eddie Finch** edward.finch@outlook.com

Social Calendar:

Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot

Tony Kitching is prepared to organise another shoot in May if there is enough interest, this is a good fun day for all comers, family, friends & the kids, plus giving a bit for charity. Usually about £15p/p covers the costings.

Takes place at the Beverley Clay Target Centre, Bygott Wood, Cherry Burton, Beverley, HU17 7RB, always on a Saturday, thus leaving it open to our working members, usually finish up in the village pub for a buffet lunch which is included.

Names to **Kitch** on Mb: 07930015184, he needs at least 15 people to make it worthwhile.

The Chairman put the above to the meeting with more than enough hands up to make the event worthwhile.

International Bomber Command Centre

Pete Robson & Gaz Coe are prepared to organise a visit to The IBCC (International Bomber Command Centre) in Lincolnshire at sometime this summer, also take a look at the Lancaster bomber sculpture (Gateway to Lincolnshire), Lincolnshire's answer to the 'Angel of the North' although, not likely to be completed this year, dependent upon donations for the build, just checking on progress.

The IBCC includes a 31 metre tall memorial spire, the UK's tallest war memorial, and walls that feature the names of all those who lost their lives during the Second World War serving or supporting Bomber Command. There are also two peace gardens: one Lincolnshire and one International. The IBCC delivers the most comprehensive coverage of Bomber Command in the world.

If interested names to Gaz 01757 268188 or Pete 01964 562799.

Chairman's Comments: **Chris** apologised for having to break the tragic news (just in), that former **LCpl Justin Appleby** of Headquarters and Support Troop 131 Independent Commando Squadron has died. There is no other details regarding his demise.

He was a combat engineer, signaller and PTI, **Justin** was a loyal servant to the Squadron throughout the noughties. He served in Afghanistan (2002) and Iraq (2003), as well as in Norway, Kuwait, USA, all over the UK and in Sweden and France also as a member of the all-conquering 131 biathlon ski team.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Angela** and their two boys. We will share details of the funeral when known.

Rest in peace **Justin** dear friend.

Super Gin Donation from Pete Wolstenholme was up to be auctioned off by the Chairman: for those of you not from Hull, we have two Rugby League teams in the city, we have the "Cream" known as 'The Pride of Hull' and then the others. **Danny Washbrook**, just one hero from the cream has put his name to a fine Gin, absolutely top quality as you would expect and thanks to the generosity of **Pete Woolly** it raised £50 when auctioned, **Percy McGlynn** the winner. **Chris** thanked all concerned for yet another injection heading towards the association funds.

Items from members:

Tony Kitching sent news surrounding **Hull City Councillor Anita Harrison** (his sister) and her struggle with current health issues over the past year, she is still in hospital after major heart surgery which went well, but other complications and infections have dogged her progress towards a full recovery, **Anita** sends her thanks to this association for the card and kind words, which were much appreciated. She hopes to be home this week end and we wish her well.

Paul Sims: reminded us all that our Arnhem Vet **Les Ransom** will be 98yrs on 5th April.

Terry Cunningham: brought greetings and best wishes from the Donny lads.

Simbos striptease bus Stop: one winner this month **Wally Holbrook** with knickers.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: Friday 3rd April at the `Minerva` usual time.

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

Dates for your diary:

Commando Association St. George's parade 0945-1400hrs on Sunday 19th April at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

This is a super get-together in amazing surroundings, as guests of the Chelsea Pensioners, including some of the original Army Commandos. I strongly encourage you to attend if you haven't been before. **RSVP David Justice** (Com Assoc Sec) dwjustice@yahoo.co.uk

The Kingston upon Hull Falkland Week End

Hull's Veterans Day Sat 25th April is combining with the Falkland Task Force W/end for a Service & Parade on Sun 26th April 2020.

Lots happening this w/end especially on the Saturday: stalls, food markets, music, the city centre is to be taken over. The Royal Navy hope to have a War Ship docked in the city for all to see. For further details contact **Tony Irwin** on Tel: 01482 793847, Mb: 07928956592

AIRBORNE FORCES DAY – NORTHERN, EDEN CAMP, MALTON, 18TH JULY 2020.

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 11th September 2020 details to be confirmed.

Further info contact Gaz Coe. Tel: 01757 268188, coeblimey240@gmail.com or Glenn Ratten glennratten@icloud.com Tel; 01757 700016.

45th Anniversary of the Cromwell Lock disaster Service of Remembrance (timings TBC) on Sunday 27th September at the Memorial Garden next to the lock, Near Newark.

RSVP Mike Holdsworth on mholdsworth218@gmail.com

REA Commando Engineer Section AGM W/end 25-27 Sept, (with dinner on Sat 27th Sept), commencing in the Black Dagger Bar in Plymouth.

Details to follow soon POC Ogre Hamilton on ogrehamilton@outlook.com , Tel 07772 867 442

AEA, AGM/reunion to be held over the week end Fri 16 – 18th Oct. 2020 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 8TH NOV. 2020, 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.

REA Commando Engineer Section Christmas Party Sat 12th Dec. in the Black Dagger Bar in Plymouth.

Details to follow. POC Ogre Hamilton on orgrehamilton@outlook.com Tel; 07772 867 442

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.

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, 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

