

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 March 2022, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva.

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, G. Coe, N. Cooper, L. Cross, T. Cunningham, D. French, C. Ham, J. Hardy, D. Harvey, D. Hines, W. Holbrook, T. James, P. Jefferson, M. Lawrence, A. McGlynn, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, K. Millington, B. Oldfield, F. Pougher, G. Ratten, P. Robson, C. Shillito, P. Sims, Mart. Tindle, K. Turner, C. Walker, A. Weldon, N. Yates.

Apologies: F. Gray, M. Maddison, S. Knowles, G. Crum, P. Robinson, J. Duffy, P. Robinson, J. Harrison, G. Beaumont, A. Stimpson, B. Steele, B. Houghton, D. Ombley, N. Siisson, C. Duggan, A. Costello, D. Watson, J. Brooks, A. Foster, C. Gadd, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, L. Smith, K. Blacker.

Guests: M. Holdsworth, K. Blain, Ali. Mohamad, Pauline Meekin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman: **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting by asking all to be upstanding for one minute's silence to be dedicated to the Ukrainian people in their struggle to have what we all take for granted. He gave special praise to the serving 299 men led by Troop Sgt T. James, good to see young blood, also the guests for tonight which included **Ozzy** the Brum, and the other good friends of 299.

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

Proposed by – **Frank Pougher**

Seconded by – **Neil Cooper**

Treasure's Report:

The Treasurer: **Glenn Ratten** gave a run down on the association funds which remain in good order, he is collecting money tonight for the Arnhem trip, and this trip is thrown open tonight to all comers, as the last chance for anybody wishing to jump on, just need your £100 deposit.

Take note: all you people who received the minutes in a printed format.

Glenn has done the sums and it costs £25 per person for the year to send the minutes this way, therefore, unfortunately this charge has to be taken by you people, cut off point is the AGM in May.

If you have to receive the minutes this way it will cost you £25 per year, if you can read the minutes through some email device you **must** give your email address to the Secretary to be added to the mailing list, no pay no minutes, the choice is yours.

Correspondence:

The Secretary: Gary Coe thanked Craig Gadd, (Gaddy) for producing a great set of minutes for the last meeting, (Feb). He was not the only one impressed with his skills as shown in the thank you message posted by **Dave Mace** in Australia to all you 299 members for giving his brother **Johnny Mace** the send-off he deserved.

Gary, Chris, Craig and comrades, posted on the message board on 6/22022

Thank you so much for giving our kid a send-off he richly deserved. All the family in OZ watched the ceremony and were pleased to see that 299 troops were with **John** at his final goodbye.

Craig in the absence of **Mr Coe** thank you for a brilliant set of minutes, I always look for the names of the attendees and think back all those years ago, I was of course saddened not to see **John's** name as an attendee, but let me tell you this 'he was there'

Thanks again for all your kind thoughts.

Regards

Spr. David Mace: 24077821 (**John's** younger brother).

Public Liability Insurance: Gmail dated 12th February 2022 from **John Lee**.

Gentlemen,

I am pleased to inform you that the Airborne Engineers Association now has a Public Liability policy with The Military Mutual which provides cover for any event which you may hold and which requires this type of cover. The maximum amount of cover is £5 million which is adequate for any type of function we as an association are likely to hold. An example where this cover is needed is for the annual Cromwell lock memorial service as The Canal & River Trust require such cover as the event is held on their land.

I can supply the relative documents if required should you consider any event you may organise would be subject to this requirement, in any case notification to the Executive council should be given of any planned event so that in the event of any claim we are aware of it and can be dealt with.

Regards **John Lee** (President of the AEA).

N/B: Eight years have passed since this subject was last raised by some former members, claiming incorrectly, that this insurance was already a package in place, using this as an incentive for encouraging 299's affiliation into the bigger AEA.

I have replied to John thanking him for his efforts and stress the point that liability insurance will not replace personal insurance, this is your responsibility.

AEA Scottish Branch Member Ronnie Drummond: from John Donaldson, email dated 1/3/2022.

Dear all, it is with deep sadness I have to report the passing of **Ronnie Drummond**, **Ronnie** passed away at 04:00 hrs today at Findlay House, Edinburgh after a short illness.

Ronnie was a former member of 2 Troop, 300 Para Sqn RE for many years and a veteran of the Korean War. I have no further details. Kind regards **John**.

Condolences have been sent on behalf of this association.

Chairman's Comments:

Chris reminded the meeting of the free coach taking us all to Kingsbury for the 131 reunion, paid for from the association funds, 08:00 hrs pick up at the Middleton Barracks, don't forget your sleeping bag, also **very important if you intend to leave a car at the Barracks, registration is needed by the middle of March for security, send to the Chairman, (text 07877277288), if you don't do this you will have to abandon your car anywhere but at the Barracks.**

Appeal

I would like to thank all of you for your generosity on the fantastic raffle prizes you all donated for the Remembrance Sunday raffle at the Minerva last year, especially **Dave Meekin and Bud Oldfield** for the SAS Port and the wings from all different countries respectively, which earned the association nearly £1000. I am asking a favour that we raffle the left over bottles at the AGM meeting in May, in aid of a charity that Steph, the manageress at the Minerva has ask for us to support. **Steph** backs us up a lot getting favour on this room for our meetings and generally looking after us. The Minerva is a good venue for us and I hope you will support her.

The charity is S.E.N. (Special Educational Needs) for those with learning difficulties and it was proposed for support by **Dave Hines and Seconded by Pete Robson**, the vote for was unanimous.

Matters arising: **Dave Meekin** reminded the meeting that on the 5th April this year it would be **Les Ransom's** one hundredth birthday and he reported that **Jamie Ransom (son)** has built a miniature Arnhem bridge on the river bank at Thearne Lane and included a bench in memory of **Les, his dad**.

Dave Hinds (webmaster) has asked if he could include the monthly minutes on our web page and this was agreed.

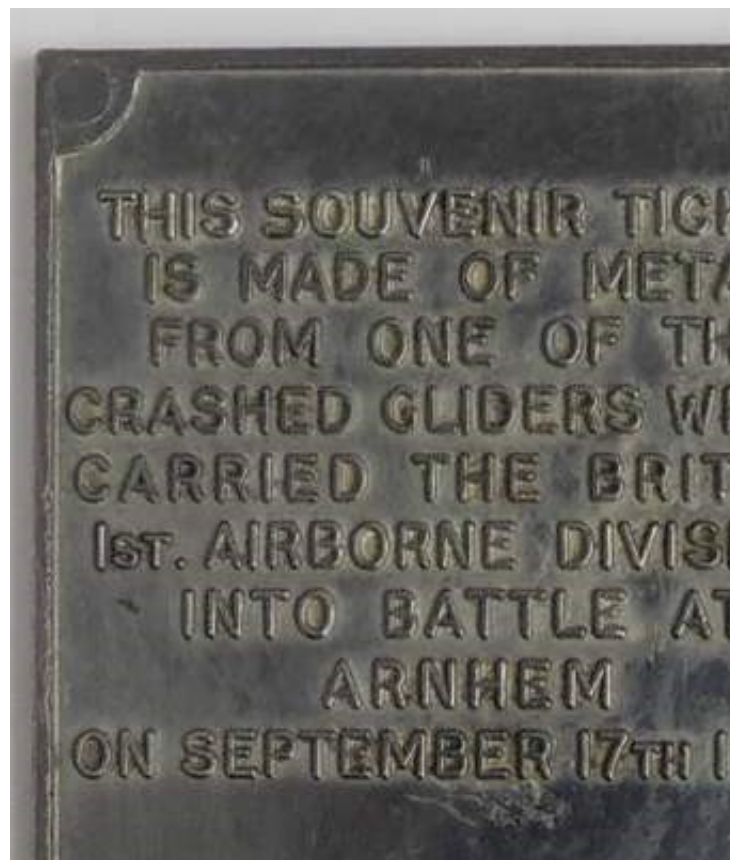
Dave Harvey donated a 299 jumper which was bought by **Dave Woollas** for £20, straight into our coffers.

Items from members:

Gary Coe produced a memento scavenged from the metal, (Aluminium), of one of the crashed Gliders found at Ginkel Heath near Arnhem, and was used to carry the 1st Airborne Division into Holland for the Battle of Arnhem, it was passed around the room. This memento has Pegasus with Bellerophon mounted carrying spear, (The British Airborne Badge), stamped on one side with the other side explaining what it is, see picture.

Detective work by **D. Hines** has proved that this item was a ticket for the premier showing of the film 'Theirs is the Glory' when it opened at the Haymarket (London) 1946. This was the story of the Battle for Arnhem and every new Para recruit was made to watch it during his basic training. The cast for this film was totally played by the survivors from the battle, they were paid £3 a day by the Rank organization, I am almost certain **Sgt Don Ball ex 299 Para Sqn RE** took part in this film, about 200 veterans made up the cast and it broke all records after its release.

This item belonged to a **Mr Len Smith**, probably ex Glider Pilot from Newmarket and his daughter has given it to me to use as seen fit, I am currently researching **Mr Smith** trying to find out what part he played in the Battle, but I am throwing it out to you people for suggestions in its use for the benefiting 299 Association, the item wants to be preserved for posterity that goes without saying, therefore think about it, and put your ideas to the association members at the AGM in May.



'Theirs is the Glory' (premier ticket), reverse side

Simbos striptease bus Stop: one winner this month Lee Cross (Crossy) in 'G' strings.

Web site address: www.299association.co.uk

Next Meeting: Friday 1st April, (no fools please), kick off 20:00 hrs at the Minerva.

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

Dates for your diary:

131 75TH Anniversary Reunion – 23rd April 2022

To take place at the Lonergan Lines, Kingsbury on Saturday 23rd April with the gates opening at 13:00 hrs, parking and accommodation will be available for those in need.

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2022

15TH – 19TH September 2022, all details to follow for the people going on this trip.

32nd AGM Birmingham 2022

32nd AGM will be held in Birmingham Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport 21st -23rd October 2022, anyone wanting to attend can book direct with the Birmingham Branch.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13th NOV. 2022, 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, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690, Mb: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman: Craig Gadd, craig.gadd@hotmail.com Mb: 47771880733

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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

