



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 association.

W. Dick, (Seadog), 2/8/2002

ANNUAL GERNERAL MEETING

Date: Friday 6th May 2016

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton, K. Blacker, J. Brooks, J. Cherry, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, C. Duggan, A. Foster, D. French, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, R. Gill, A. Grimes, M. Hall, D. Harvey, D. Hinds, S. Hoyle, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, A. Kitching, C. Lickiss, D. Mace, J. Mace, S. McMahon, D. Meeking, O. Nelson-Girchen, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, K. Russell, K. Saddington, C. Shillito, P. Sims, L. Smith, B. Steele, R. Swatman, Mike. Tindle, Mart. Tindle, T. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock, D. Woollas.

Apologies: P. Robinson, C. Woodward, C. Wilkinson, F. Rands, F. Gray, J. Duffy, D. Ideson, M. Maddison, T. James, J. Thompson, C. Walker, B. Oldfield, N. Smales, J. Davis.

Guests: P. Meeking.

Welfare report on Colin Woodward, (Woody) by Tony Irwin, our Archivist & Standard bearer: Tony had spent the previous afternoon, 5th May, at “**Woodies**” own bedside, very little response observed with the emphasis aimed at **Colin’s** pain relief, thanks for doing that **Tony**, our thoughts are with the family at this testing time.

Welfare report on our Doncaster colleagues by their old mate Terry Cunningham: **Terry** reported that unfortunately **Bud, Nev & John** all have health issues, both directly and indirectly, and they send their apologies for their absence by sending all at the meeting their best wishes and look forward to appearing again when things improve.

Welcome and ‘Roll Call’

The acting Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present to yet again a very well attended AGM, 50 attendees, he stated that a bigger venue may well be needed if this trend continues, he gave a special welcome to one of our colonial members **Dave Mace**, not seen for many years after going “Walk about” down under, he’s been released under a special licence, (his kids), who clubbed together to give him a trip to see his old “pommy” mates, including his older brother; “**Mohamed**” known to us lot as **Johnny Mace the “mountain”** because he cannot bring himself to travel around to the other side of the World for visiting his family in OZ, he then went on to open the meeting by thanking everybody for making the effort in attending both the meeting and the group photo shoot.

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

Proposed by – **G. Ratten.**

Seconded by – **J. Mace.**

Treasure's Report:

Martin gave a comprehensive account of our funds which remain in a healthy state but reminded the meeting that **all monies for the Arnhem Pilgrimage will have to be paid by the July meeting at the latest, the total cost this year is £260p/p.** It has been decided that the usual way of booking a place on any trip by paying a deposit is to be abandoned, **Martin** is prepared to collect savings for trips from you on a monthly basis if you require, and other than that it will be a one off payment for the cost of the trip on or before the stated time as required.

Acting Chairman's message: Chris Shillito

I have to thank you all for the support given to me throughout the year, you men form the very fabric of this association, every single one of you, without exception, and without you this association would cease to exist. Every month our meetings attract 30+ members to the "Minerva" this captures an atmosphere of friendship and good will that is second to none. **Chris** went on to thank some individuals personally because of their commitment to the association:

Dave Hinds: web-site development, photography and sheer dedication.

Tony Costello: intellectual input, photography and dedication.

Pete Robson: generous donations, "no questions asked"

Mike Beardshaw: fruit donations and commitment.

Tony Kitching: fund raising for charity.

Tony Weldon: fund raising for charity.

Colin Woodward: dedication to our Standards.

Tony Irwin: Dedication to our Standards and guardian of our Archives.

Les Ransom: always ready, with time for everyone, a man of integrity possessing the wisdom of life.

Bill Drayton: stood on when needed at a cost to his health.

Paul Sims: support and commitment, 299 to the core.

Chris Wilcock: for his ever present input and support, a former OC, his experience is proving essential for the association's future, his influence with the younger members will be crucial in the coming years.

The meetings are open to all 299 men without exception, any time given attending a meeting would be approximately 1 to 2hrs a month, just to keep you in touch with your friends, at the moment there are no membership fees and there are no forms or hoops to jump through, service past or present is all that is needed, this includes your friends and family, everybody is welcome.

Comments and summary from Gary Coe, (Secretary)

The year had started badly with our Chairman, big **Bill Drayton** suffering a massive heart attack, also his wife "**Dori**" was at the same time recovering from a mild stroke, thankfully they have both stabilised and are well on the mend. **Bill** had to step down from the Chair and we have to thank **Chris Shillito** for his intervention as caretaker Chairman. **Chris** has worked tirelessly in this role and his input as usual has been outstanding and essential.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to **Dave Hinds** for his brilliant ideas and work in redesigning the associations web-site, he was aided by **Craig Gadd** who also needs thanking, everyone agrees it has turned out to be a splendid effort that will continue to develop with time, thus giving every 299 man "who is worth his salt" something to be proud of.

May 2015 Hardwick Hall: A small group from this association attended this function in supporting **Les Ransom** our Arnhem Vet, and one of **Frost's** men who had been invited for the laying of wreaths at the memorial plaque, **Les** carried out his duties in his usual manor, winning many friends along the way, and we thank him for representing this association on this and the many other occasions when requested, he never fails. God bless you **Les**.

Summer Bash at the Barracks, August 2015: not a great success financially, a bit short on numbers, but for those who attended a good time was had by all. A special thanks has to go to **S/Sgt Carl Ham** for pulling it all together. We also have to thank all those who donated raffle prizes, especially **Micky Beardshaw** with his fresh fruit display, a site to behold, also **Pete Robson** for his model of an Airborne Soldier which went for auction. **Paul Sims, (Simbo)** ran the raffle which thankfully made a profit, all profits from this event went to The Lord Mayors of Kingston upon Hull Charity appeal fund.

The Memorial Day Parade at the Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, York, September 2015: This association produced a good turnout for this most enjoyable event, 299 was by far the biggest veteran group on parade, also plenty of photo opportunities with the Dakota, the weather was kind and we were made most welcome. Thanks to **Jack Brooks** and his folding seat, **Les Ransom** took the salute in the sitting position, and rightly so.

Arnhem Pilgrimage September 2015: Another successful pilgrimage enjoyed by all. A special thanks to **Mally Tindle** coach driver supreme, it was only due to his perseverance with a temperamental gearbox and the loss of a night's sleep that we managed to complete the trip safely.

Cromwell Lock Commemoration Service September 2015: Brilliant turn out from this association over 30+ 299 men on parade for this occasion, well done everybody, especially the working family men, it's quite a sacrifice to give up a day of your week end; perhaps this turnout reflected the significance of this event!

Presentation of a Collage to the Minerva Inn, October 2015: We have to thank **Jack Brooks** for this marvellous piece of work, produced by his own hand and presented on behalf of this association. Thank you **Jack**.

Remembrance Sunday, Hull Cenotaph, November 2015: More than 30 association member's paraded for Hull's annual service of remembrance, the largest number so far, with a fairly even split between Red & Green berets, this was a humbling show of respect for our friends that are no longer with us, also showed an acknowledgment in our personal pride in being a part of this association.

Clay Pigeon Shoot, Bygot Wood, Nr Beverly: Tony Kitch organized this exceptional days shooting, ably assisted by some of the wife's; **Linda Kitch & Fiona Hinds** and daughter **Steph Hinds**, a big thanks to them all, everybody enjoyed the day, and for many it was a first, we also raised a bucket full of money for the Lord Mayors Charity fund, everyone a winner!

Christmas Party with a difference hosted by the Lord Mayor of Hull, December 2015: The Lord Mayor of Hull invited this association to this party in aid of raising money for the Charity funds. 299 association responded by buying 70+ tickets and we got a full nights entertainment, a supper with raffles/tombola, all in the magnificent banqueting room at Hull's Guild Hall. **Tony Kitching** took on the master of ceremonies job and both him and **Tony Weldon** presented cheques to the Lord Mayors Charities. **Dave Hinds** took care of the photography and presented it to the social media. Yet again we have to thank you all for your prize donations, **Micky Beard's** produced another fresh fruit display, the night was a great success mainly because of this associations participation, you people giving your support made all the difference, thanks to you, the Lord Mayors Charity funds received a healthy boost. Well done 299.

Various events were supported by this association over the next few months, all in aid of the Lord Mayors Charity Appeal funds: Race night and Night of Clairvoyance.

Lonergan Lines: Naming Ceremony, April 2016: Eighteen men from this association attended this poignant occasion of the renaming of the 131 Ind Cdo RE (V) Barracks at Honeypot Lane, London. This is in memorandum of **SSM John Lonergan** of 300 Sqn 131 Para RE, (V), KIA Aden 1965, some of these 299 men attending were veterans of this campaign, and "therefore by the grace of God go I" Again, tremendous support from the association, especially **Chris Shillito** who drove the mini bus both ways.

The Norland Remembrance service & Parade at Holy Trinity, Hull, April 2016: Men from this association paraded with standards, finishing off in the Minerva for a liquid lunch, we must thank them for marking our presence.

Normandy Trip April 2016: Eighteen people enjoyed this five day trip, all the major sites were visited, the hotel and food was excellent and the company was great; what more can you ask for? **Dave Hinds** has produced a brilliant summary of the whole trip, along with many photos, this has been submitted to **Dave Rutter**, editor of the AEA Journal, hopefully for inclusion in the June addition, and the summary will be released after the Journal is published.

I, along with the rest of the committee would like to thank you all for your support given throughout the year, because without you guys there is no association. This last year has been very busy, mainly due to our involvement with The Lord Mayors Charity Appeal fund, this will cease at the end of May leaving us with time to draw breath. We would never expect you men to attend every event that we take part in, people have commitments, ie work, families, etc. and as much as we enjoy your company the committee fully understands this, we all have other lives to live.

For most of us, service with 299 set the standard for the rest of our lives. Those WW2 veterans and founder members of 299 drummed into the fresh young men an ethos required for service within the unit, there were never any tolerance for the narcissistic glamour boys of the day, any obvious lack of substance meant they were quickly shown the door, physical requirements were never quite enough for making the grade. These principles became a way of life, a metaphorical white line never to be crossed, a set of values needed to fulfil the job we were been trained for; friendship and respect for each other rated highly in the scheme of things, this can be seen in action to this day, with many friendships going back for 50+years, I am pleased to say the training is still working.

The present committee then stood down and the Secretary informed the meeting that no requests had been received for job uptake in the administrating of this association, therefore the offer for new committee members was put to the floor and there were no takers.

Chris Sillito volunteered to take the Chair providing a post of Vice Chairman could be developed and asked **Bill Drayton** if he would take on this role, stating that his experience would be invaluable, and this was agreed. This was put to the members;

The previous Secretary, Treasurer and Archivist agreed to serve another year, **Gary Coe, Martin Tindle & Tony Irwin** respectively.

Proposed: **P. Robson**, Seconded: **A. Kitching**, the motion was carried unanimously.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Correspondence: To OC 299 Para Squadron Maj Si Farmer. (New OC)

I sent a welcome letter on behalf of the association to the above, with an open invitation to attend any of our meetings, reminding him that he is automatically a member by virtue of his service, I have yet to get a reply.

Chairman's Comments: Congratulations to Craig Gadd

Gaddy has just completed a free fall course in California and acquired his licence, there is a brilliant video on the association face book site, he was aided through the charity (Blesma), The British Limbless Ex Service Mans Association. Well done Craig a wonderful achievement.

Matters arising:

Daz's Rock 4 Charity @ HULL CITY HALL on Friday 20th May supporting The Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal Fund. Commencing 7pm until late.

Tickets bought in advance £10p/p, pay at the door £12p/p

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: To be held at the "Minerva" on Corporation Pier, Hull at 20.00hrs on Friday 3rd June 2016.

Dates for your Diary:

The Hardwick Hall annual parade Sunday 15th May, let the committee know if you are interested.

Airborne Forces Day (Northern) at Eden Camp on Saturday 16th July. Free entry when wearing a maroon beret.

Arnhem Pilgrimage: 15th – 19th September 2016, Must be fully paid up by the end of June.

AEA Reunion/AGM 2016. The Royal Court Hotel, Keresley, Coventry. Friday 14th October – Monday 17th October. Booking forms can be obtained from the Secretary and will also be included in the June edition of the AEA Journal.

Remembrance Sunday: 13th November 2016.



299 ASSOCIATION ROYAL ENGINEERS



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : MINERVA HOTEL HULL: FRIDAY MAY 6th 2016