



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 GENERAL MEETING

Date: Friday May 4th 2018 at the Minerva.

Members Present: D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton. K. Blacker, J. Brooks, N. Busby, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton., A. Foster, R. Franklin, D. French, C. Gadd, R. Gill, C. Ham, D. Harvey, D. Hines, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, M. Ovington, J. Mace, A. McGlynn, D. Meekin, K. Millington, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, K. Russell, K. Saddington, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, L. Smith, B. Steele, A. Stimpson, R. Swatman, J. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock, D. Woollas.

Apologies: F. Gray, A. Homan, J. Duffy, J. Harrison, G. Newton, M. Holdsworth, N. Yates, L. Ransom, A. Lee, P. Hairsine, P. Robinson.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shilito** welcomed all present to this very well attended meeting (48), thanking everybody for making the effort to come early for the photo shoot organised by **Tony Foster**, ably assisted by **Gaddy**. Conditions were perfect on this barny summery night overlooking the River Humber on **Nelson Street** and the whole procedure caused quite a stir amongst the many evening drinkers & diners.

Chris reserved a special thanks to those, who, for whatever reason, cannot make the meetings on a regular basis, but pull the stops out for the AGM.

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

Proposed by – **Keith Robinson**

Seconded by – **Tony Irwin**

Treasure's Annual Report:

The Treasurer **Martin Tindle** was initially inundated with last minute Arnhem money payments which held the start of the meeting up slightly. He went on to give a full statement of our accounts and thanked the members for their efforts in adding to the funds, thus allowing this association to avoid subscriptions which were always difficult to collect. He paid a special thanks to **Paul Sims** for running his bus stops each and every meeting which managed to raise £271 during the year, another £340 was raised from the efforts of **Dave Hinds, Tony Costello, Tony Kitching, Tony Foster and donations from Terry Walker, Pete Robson, Tony Weldon Jack Brooks and Dave Meekin**, apologies for anyone missed, generally a great effort from all members.

The associations out going costs went on: presentations, wreaths, internet provision, bus hire when needed and charitable donations/sponsorship all of which will have been sanctioned by you people.

299 Secretary's brief annual summary for 2017 - 18

This last calendar year started with very bad news posted by **Bud Oldfield** on the 12/5/2017 with the death of **Pete Nixon**, ex 2 Troop, 299 Squadron, 131 Regiment RE, based in Doncaster. He served from the 50's – early 60's and saw active service in Suez, Cyprus and Aden. A very popular man always in the middle of things, he fitted a lot into his 83yrs, and a good few men from this association helped in laying him to rest.

John Lee AEA President launched his AEA car badge on the 25/5/2017, I believe there are still some available.

A brilliant turnout from this association on May 28th 2017 with 23 members attending the Falklands/Norland Memorial service and wreath laying at the Corporation, (Victoria), Pier in Hull. General Julian Thompson, (ex CO of 3 Commando Brigade during the war), led the parade and mixed freely with all after the service.

Commanding Officer 1 Troop 299 Para Sqn. Capt. J.C. Thompson tied the knot again this month, can't seem to rid himself of this addiction to wedding cake, we wish him well.

A very enjoyable mini bus visit to The National Memorial Arboretum took place on 20/5/2017 to coincide with the Palestine Memorial day, ex 299 & 301 men joined the service with Standards along with the few remaining Palestine vets, including our own **Tony Costello**. A very moving service, also a chance to meet up again with **Bunny Brown**.

Bri. Bilton picked up **Les Ransom** and **Tony Irwin** picked up **Simbo** on the 15th July for the Northern Airborne Forces Day at Eden camp, standards were paraded at the service, after, a good chance to catch up with **Charlie McGolgan** over a few beers.

Johnny Mace brought the sad news that **Fred Rands** died peacefully at his home on August 2nd 2017, we knew he had not being well for a long time, **Fred's** family was taken-a-back by the association's attendance at his funeral, it was the least we could do for our favourite Corporal.

Kev Saddington along with a group of ex 299 Commando's set out to walk the Monte Rosa Trail in Switzerland, started on the 1st Sept 2017 and took 7days to complete, full kit and unsupported. Charitable donations went to McMillian Cancer Support. Great effort with new hips & old alike.

Tony Kitching posted the sad news that ex 1 Para & 299 Sqn RE man **Lyndsay Love** has just recently passed away. Contact had been lost with him and unfortunately the news broke after his funeral.

Good turn out by this association to the YORKSHIRE AIR MUSEUM for their Memorial Parade & Service on Sunday 3rd September 2017 a brilliant day that was very well received and our participation was greatly appreciated.

Johnny Mace posted the sad news of another old 299er who has passed away in Australia, RIP **Mally Scott** served in 299 from mid-50's to early 60's, not much detail on this.

34 enjoyed the 299 Arnhem Pilgrimage of 2017, many first timers on this occasion.

This association hosted the 2017 AGM & Gala Ball at the Britannia Royal Hotel in Hull on Saturday 21st October 2017, and by all accounts it was well received. Brilliant job by our team headed by **Maj C. Wilcock**.

We did our usual bit for **Councillor Anita Harrison** in her quest to help the under privileged children from the Brandsholme estate in Hull. Halloween experience & Santa's Grotto, I'm sure we will be asked again this year.

Paul Hairsine (Hairy) had a heart attack doing all the right things! He thought, thankfully up & running again.

299 Standard was paraded at the Hull Cenotaph on the 11th of the 11th with a good representation from this association.

Great turnout for Remembrance Sunday (42), good to have the Squadron with us in Hull, buffet kindly provided by **Weldo & Sqn**. Two presentations given out on this occasion **'Weldo & Woody' (Posthumously)**.

A Squadron & Association representation with standard was asked to attend a short service of Remembrance at the 'To the Fallen' memorial on the Brandsholme Estate in Hull. **Capt. J. C. Thompson** laid for the Sqn.

More bad news from Birmingham this time, the death of **Roy Hicks** 131 cook for many years, a car full of 299 men made it to his Funeral. The 'Brummies' did him proud.

The death of **Dave Skoyles** on 29/12/2017 shocked us all, a sad loss to this association, big turnout for his Funeral. A much respected Associate member and friend.

Major Olaf Dudley moved on from 131 after many years of service, big leaving do at the **Lonergan Lines** in Kingsbury, 299 men attended with a presentation and the Squadron's good wishes.

Throughout the year **John Donaldson**, (Scotland), never let go of the struggle for the GSM (South Arabia clasp), on behalf of the men who fought and died in the Dahla Road action of Aden 1965.

Members from this association attended the 50th Anniversary Memorial service for the Hull Triple Trawler disaster of 1968 at the Hull Minster. This disaster changed the 'Safety at Sea Laws' for the better.

Bud Pougher reached 80yrs and association men helped him enjoy it.

Presentation at the March meeting for **S/Sgt C. Ham**, 299 Squadron honoured this special man for his many years of valued service given.

Tony Kitching pulled off a great day's clay pigeon shooting, a real association family affair, including a brilliant buffet at the Bay Horse in Cherry Burton, also made a profit for charity, well done **Kitch**.

Les Ransom reached his 96yr on April 5th there's no stopping this Arnhem vet.

Members from this association attended the Annual Remembrance Service & Parade at the Hull Minister on Sunday 29th April 2018 for the MV NORLAND & SAMA 82, wreaths were laid at the permanent Norland memorial in Hull.

The Secretary added his thanks to all members who enjoyed taking part in activities during this very eventful year **G. Coe (Sec)**.

Chairman's annual report:

Chris gave two reasons why he was proud to be the Chairman of this association, the first reason is that he served besides many of you as a reservist in one of the best units in the British Army, and to reach the standards that was expected, Para or Commando, whilst holding down a full time job and bringing up a family. Many of you men have seen active service as front line soldiers, some paying a heavy price, and it is a privilege to be amongst you. Secondly to experience the comradeship in this association first cultured and experienced as serving soldiers with 299, way back e.g., 'the second bite of the cherry, so to speak' and money can't buy it..!

He went on to praise the support he gets from the rest of the committee, being a relative newcomer to the job with just two years under his belt, he also apologised for some of his terrible jokes and asked if anyone has being offended or upset by any of this as hard luck, because "he doesn't give a damn"

He thanked **Gaz Coe** for doing the Secretaries job, who always backs him up, he encouraged all recipients of the meeting minutes to read them, full of info.

He served for many years with our Treasurer **Mart Tindle** who he describes as a quiet, unassuming, honest man, therefore our money is very safe. **Martin** is a survivor of the Kiel Canal debacle, (six killed), also the Cromwell lock disaster, (10 killed), and is coming up to 15yrs service on this committee, rock solid.

Dave Hines is our web master taking care of all our digitised history, including the Roll of Honour, also has produced a website that is the envy of all associations, Para or Commando. He uses his IT skills to generate all sorts of memorabilia which helps raise cash for the association funds. Will always make himself available and a great asset to 299.

Tony Irwin wears several hats in this association: Archivist; looking after all the historic documents & photos, he has spare bedroom full of it, much of it had been collated by **Jack Brooks** over the many years. He took over the standard bearing roll after the death of **Colin Woodward (Woody)**. **Tony** looks the part, always smart and also carries for the CESA organization, (Combined Ex-serviceman's Association), this is a voluntary organisation supplying a military presence whenever needed. This action takes the 299 standard all-over the place and for this he has to be thanked, along with the two reserve bearers **Art Stimpson & Paul Sims**.

Vice Chairman **Bill Drayton** looks after our Chairman, covers when he's away and always makes sure he gets home after their Sunday sessions (Church), this ex association Chairman offers mainstream support for 299.

The Chairman proceeded to present awards but was interrupted by **Kev. Blacker** who stepped forward and presented **Chris** with a voucher to be used at one of his favourite restaurants in Whitby, this was a well-deserved thank you from the membership.

THE RANSOM SHIELD went to **Dave Hines** for dedicated service to the association, **Les** was ill therefore **Chris** presented on his behalf.

Craig Gadd received a Presentation Para Trooper as an integral part of a great team effort of **Chris Wilcock, Paul Sims and Dean Ideson** for their efforts in organizing the AEA Gala Dinner.

Tony Costello received a Presentation Para Trooper for the many attributes he's brought to this association, nothing is too much trouble for this 90yr old ex Para Reg man and associate member of this association.

Tony Irwin received a presentation Para Trooper for his dedication to this association.

Before stand down, Maj C. Wilcock thanked the committee on behalf of the meeting for their efforts and dedication over the past year.

The Committee stood down.

There were no new takers for committee positions when asked and Paul Sims proposed that the ex-incumbent committee would stand for another year, this was seconded by Keith Robinson after agreement by all, and the vote for standing again, was unanimous.

Caveat: Martin Tindle gave fair warning that this is his last year as Treasurer. He's done his bit. Please take note; the same people cannot go on for ever, even if they want to.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Correspondence: relevant incoming over the previous month.

Tony Foster: message Bd. 10/4/2018. DEFENCE DISCOUNT SERVICE

This is an Armed Forces & Veterans discount card. This card gives you 10% or more in shops, restaurants & holidays. For more details see section `matters arising`

Bud Oldfield: message Bd. 21/4/2018. NEWS FROM DONCASTER

Hi to the 299 men, **Nev. Smales** is finally sorted out with his medical problems. He was admitted to DRI on Monday 16th for surgical removal of his Gall bladder, including the stones. He was discharged Tuesday 17th (next day), and is now at home convalescing, he is a little sore but glad to have this at the back of him. The surgeon reported that all went well after deciding that total removability of the Gall bladder was the safest option for getting over his problems.

Have a good AGM and all the best from **Bud**.

John (Willy) Harrison: Email sent 25/4/2018. NEWS FROM BELGIUM

Please accept my apologies I cannot make the AGM. The good news is I'm retiring from work, hoping to get over from Belgium more often. Best wishes to everyone, **John**.

Tony Foster: Email sent 27/4/2018. **Gary**, we went to Leeds last Friday and they are going to take Debs arm off.

Reply: **Tony**, thanks for letting us know, it's so bloody tragic, even though we knew it's for the best, none of us can guess at what this life throws at us, please pass the associations best wishes to Debs for her imminent surgery. Do not hesitate in asking for help if needed, people from this association would only be to glad in aiding you through these life changing events.

J. Lee: Email sent April 30th 2018. **GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations). (This is for members of the AEA only).**

Gentlemen,

The 25th May is approaching and I know that some of you have been/are contacting your members regarding above. A general Privacy Notice will be printed in the AEA Journal to explain the regulations fully and how they effect members. It is proposed to send out the consent forms electronically to those members listed with emails initially and then by post to those without an email address.

Our Webmaster has devised blocks of members` email addresses which can be sent out together with a consent form so this hopefully will be a relatively simple operation. There will of course be some duplication which I think will be unavoidable but could I ask you to send any completed consent forms to the AEA Data Protection Officer; Billy Morris (email bsfm968@gmail.com) so he has a record. Preferable a scan, but just a note of who has replied and other pertinent details would be acceptable.

General Data Protection Regulations, May 4th 2018

An EU directive which is set to become British law on the 25th May 2018 demands that any organization keeping a data base, (personal information), have to obtain proof of consent from each individual in doing so, therefore any information such as addresses, email or home, phone numbers, etc. kept by the Secretary of 299 Association, whose responsibility it is in seeing that this information is used correctly, protecting at all times, to the best of his ability all your contact details.

Considering that nobody gathered this information without its owner's consent, all freely given without been requested, under no duress, simply because the member wants to receive the monthly newsletters, surely renders the whole procedure as futile, or am I missing something? The very fact that people who want to be a part of this, or any association is dependent upon them giving at least one contact detail to the said organization, because without this they would never become a member, and without members the organization would never have existed at all.

Conclusion:

Written personal authorization for keeping contact information in trying to be compliant to these regulations has to be considered as irrelevant for 299 Association, because 299 Association membership status depends entirely for its existence upon the consensual disclosure of at least one contact detail as a prerequisite for membership, without a given contact detail this association would only have a name, and nothing else, but never a member. This begs the question; why would proof of consent to hold such information be required FROM the very same person who gave it up willingly, and wants it to be held by them? You couldn't make this up!

I will **not** be asking for you to send me any additional written permission for keeping your contact details and can only apologize for having to involve you in what I consider to be a total waste of time, also an insult to rational thinking people, but 'we are where we are' therefore, in an attempt to comply, I am giving notice that next month's newsletter, (minutes), will not be given out openly, in a block, I will use the 'blind' format for those of you with the computers, also, all historic and redundant contact details belonging to past members and contacts will be wiped from the records.

ALL READERS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The Secretary of 299 Association is putting a statement to this meeting and, also to everybody reading these minutes, that if you do not want your contact details kept by the 299 Secretary you must inform him immediately and he will strike you from the list, membership status would have to cease at this point, along with your contact detail. Obviously, it would be impossible for it to work in any other way, a name is only a name, its people that make an association.

It will be taken as consent unless instructed otherwise.

N/B: individuals who have requested previously for privacy of their details to be maintained as a high priority can rest assured that your security will continue to be protected at all times. G. Coe.

The following proposition was put to the membership attending this meeting for permission to continue dealing with this association members contact details, by relying totally upon the discretion, honesty and integrity of the association's Secretary, this was;

Proposed by: Dave Hines and Seconded by: Tony Irwin and was carried unanimously.

Chairman's Comments:

Chris personally thanked the following: **Simbo** for doing the bus stops, **Terry Walker** for his donations, **Jack Brooks** for his input on many fronts, **Pete Robson** for his donations, the AEA Gala night team, our associate members, especially the Ship Inn crew who look after **Les Ransom** and support us in so many ways. But most of all I would like to thank you all for turning up tonight.

The Roll of Honour Boards and their final resting place, the meeting was asked to decide this matter between The Hull City Guild Hall and the Minerva, the Minerva was proposed by **Glenn Ratten** and seconded by **Dave Harvey**, and the Minerva had it on a majority vote.

THERE IS A RUMOUR going about that this year's Arnhem Pilgrimage is being subsidised using the association funds and I have to say this is totally untrue. The association funds belong to us all, not just the few who choose to go to Arnhem, or using the example of a children's party, only members with children would benefit, **the committee is charged by you, the members to protect what is ours, thus making us duty bound in doing so in a fair and balanced manner**, you can make up your own minds how and why this rumour was started, the costings are available for anybody to view at any time. We cannot give the exact price as yet because the final numbers are not certain, but will be shortly. We decided to book our own trip this year after one or two disappointments during the last few years.

Matters arising:

Forces discount card; you just go onto the following site defencediscountservice.co.uk/ then go to Register Armed Forces and ministry of defence official service, click on that and fill in the form. There is a charge of £6 and you will need your discharge papers.

If doing it through the post, write to: The Defence Discount Service, PO Box 10180, Loughborough Leicestershire, LE11 9HN.

Giacom World Networks Ltd; our internet provider has finally caught up with us and we have received an invoice for renewal services for the coming year, Domain renewal date 9/6/2018.

Association marquee: the association has a marquee, approx. size ~ 30 x 12 ft. It is kept at **Les Ransom's** yard in Woodmansey, Tel; 01482 881462, apparently, summer is just around the corner..! It's available to any member for a small donation to association funds, obviously user responsibility is to be obeyed.

Items from members: Report on the annual memorial Service & Parade for NORLAND & SAMA 80.

The Hon Mrs E Susan-Cunliffe Lister, HM Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire, **Sukey Cameron MBE**, Falklands Govt. Representatives and Falkland Veterans, also **R.W. Councillor John Hewitt**, Lord Mayor of Kingston Upon Hull and **Admiral of the Humber** who were present at the Remembrance Service at Hull Minster on Sunday 29th April 2018. Apologies were received from **Maj Gen Julian Thompson**, who was indisposed due to a back injury. The service which had been mainly organised by **Keith Thompson**, ex Purser of the **'NORLAND' and SAMA 82 North** was extremely well attended; the recently refurbished Minster being full to capacity, and including a large contingent from the 299 Association. There was a short march to the Maritime Museum in Hull where wreaths were laid by the above dignitaries and veterans at the permanent 'Norland' Memorial. **Tony Costello**.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Simbo's Bus stops: two winners this month John Tommo & Gaz Coe.

Next Meeting: At the Minerva on June 1st 2018, 20.00hrs, Corporation Pier Hull.

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

Dates for your diary:

AIRBORNE FORCES REMEMBRANCE DAY (Northern), Saturday 14th July 2018. Eden Camp, Near Malton. A reunion, parade and commemorative service is to be held for all Airborne Forces. Parade at 11.00hrs, free entry for cherry berets and parade participants.

YORKSHIRE AIR MUSEUM MEMORIAL DAY: 2ND Sept. 2018, details TBC, remember: Centenary year for the RAF, will be a big occasion this year, a good turn out from this association would do this association no harm at all!

**ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2018. THURSDAY NIGHT 20th Sept (overnight ferry) ----- MONDAY morning after overnight ferry Sept.24th 2018
Details to follow.**

CROMWELL LOCK MEMORIAL SERVICE, (at the lock), SUNDAY 30TH SEPT. 2018. Details to follow.

29TH ANNUAL AEA GALA DINNER – SATURDAY 13TH October 2018. To be held at the King Charles Hotel, Brompton Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5QT. (Chatham Branch of the AEA), Booking forms attached to April's minutes.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11TH NOV. 2018, details to follow

CONTACTS:

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