



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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Friday 3rd May 2019 at the Minerva.

Members Present: A. Alcock, M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton, K. Blacker, N. Busby, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, A. Foster, D. French, C. Gadd, R. Gill, A. Green, C. Ham, D. Harvey, D. Hines, A. Homan, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, M. Lawrence, T. James, P. Jefferson, A. Kitching, J. Mace, A. McGlynn, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, P. Morris, B. Oldfield, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Saddington, C. Shillito, N. Smales, L. Smith, B. Steele, A. Thomas, J. Thompson, M. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, Lt Col. C. Wilcock, P. Wolstenholme, D. Woollas, N. Yates.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, J. Harrison, K. Russell, A. Costello, M. Maddison, J. Brooks, C. Duggan, C. Henrickson, C. Lickiss, P. Sims, K. Newton.

Guests: Maj Olaf Dudley, Benny Bridges, Martin Sadler, Eileen Robinson, Pauline Meekin, Mrs Wilcock (Sarah).

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman: **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present to this very well attended meeting (50) by asking **Tony Alcock** to recite the Exhortation, 'They shall grow not old', as we remember **Steve (Mac) McMahon**, he thanked 'Duds' for trekking up here from the big city, also the men from Doncaster, special thanks to the ladies and **Martin**, who has become a regular guest, finally that long-time friend of 299 and **Macey's** best pal **Benny Bridges**, ex Royal Engineer, (National service, Aden), ex Hull City player and a good all-round chap. At this point **Terry Cunningham** interrupted the proceedings with the sad news that former 299 CO Maj **Ken Newton** has been involved in a motor accident and cannot make the meeting, no reported injuries, but disappointed.

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

Proposed by – **Olaf (Duds) Dudley**

Seconded by – **Frank (Bud) Pougher**

Treasure's Report: **Martin** ran through the association balance sheet and reported that over the last year a total of £259 was raised by **Paul Sims, via Simbo's** bus stops, also another £244 came from the efforts of **Dave Hines** using his computer skills to generate calendars and other 299 memorabilia, **Tony Costello & Tony Foster** for their photographic work, all this helps to leave the association's funds in a healthier state, and he thanked all involved.

Summary 2018 – 2019 by Gary Coe (Sec. 299 Association)

Another very full year for 299 Association and our membership continues to grow, despite the natural losses which can only be expected with the passage of time. We continue to draw upon more of our ex Commandos who will eventually outnumber their Airborne brothers in the not too distant future. This was always going to be the case after 30 years serving in green, most seeing active service as a part of 3 Commando Brigade and covering themselves in glory. 299 is back to red again as a part of 23 Parachute Regiment RE but it will be many years before the young men that are serving today will be ready, or even interested in any kind of association.

Our affiliation with the AEA remains intact, endeavouring to support them whenever and wherever possible, there is no compulsion for 299 people to join any particular association, we still, just about live in a free country, thus leaving individual memberships, if wanted, to any organisation as personal preference.

We, the wider Para/Commando fraternity, have lost a lot of good people since our last AGM in May 2018, therefore before I start prompting the year's memories and key points, I felt I needed to reintroduce some words of wisdom sent to me from Tokyo, of all places, by former **Spr Stewart Bristow**, (299, late 60's early 70's), he sent the following words around the death of former **Capt. Keith Robinson, (Robbie)**, and I quote:

"I have never forgotten my time with 299 which brings back many fond memories, and shaped me as a man.

It's inevitable that we all have to die. What is important is how one lives, and how one helps and impacts on others. Strength and honour. Be at rest my friend" Stewart Bristow.

N/B: An epitaph to be proud of Keith Robinson, a job well done, words bestowed upon his former training Corporal from a once upon a time young Sapper, now living at the other side of the world.

We lost **Bernard (Bunny) Brown** on the 17th May 2018, that much respected and very experienced soldier and friend from Birmingham, a very important part of the Airborne Engineers Association, I heard the following description of his character at his funeral on the 8th June 2018 **"he was a beacon of excellence and common sense"** 16, 299 members attended, including standard, massive turnout with the chapel overflowing.

Martin Tindle (Treasurer) had given notice at the AGM 2018 that this coming year will be his last after completing 15 consecutive years' service in this post. A Vice Treasurer was asked for at the June meeting, initially to take care of the Arnhem Pilgrimage monies for our proposed trip in 2019 and **Glenn Ratten** volunteered, this was put to the meeting and voted in unanimously.

Eamon Smyth ex SSM 301 Troop Commando RE declared his intentions to produce a new plaque for the commemorative bridge built by 299, in memory of the men killed at Cromwell lock and sited at Toscaig, in the Applecross area of Scotland, proposed designs were passed around for review.

At the July meeting news came through that **Keith Robinson** had been taken ill whilst on holiday in the Isle of Wight, and was having to be brought home early, this brought concern to us all.

John Donaldson had been knocked back yet again in his fight for the GSM, Clasp 'South Arabia,' for the dead and wounded Territorial soldiers of 300 Para Sqn, 131 Para Regt RE, during actions in 1965 Aden.

Ann & Kev Saddington on their way back from business in Newark did a tidy up job and reported that all is well at Cromwell Lock, this was good news and much appreciated, "**Service not Self**"

On 7th July 2018 we received devastating news from **John Duffy**, his daughter **Helen** had fallen down the stairs and died from her injuries, this tragedy could only be made worst by the fact that **John** was nursing his wife **Fay** who was terminally ill, the association stood by with full support where & when needed.

Airborne Forces Day (Northern) 14th July 2018 at Eden Camp, two standards paraded, 299 & Palestine Vets thanks to **Tony Irwin & Arthur Stimpson who supported 'super' veterans Les Ransom & Tony Costello.**

More bad news: **Keith Robbie** moved to intensive care at HRI (pneumonia & sepsis), visitations on rota basis as his health continues to deteriorate.

Two extra memorial boards produced by Canary Joinery (everything done on the 'cheep'), care of **Tommo.**

Keith Robinson dies on 20th July 2019 with his family around his bed. Very sad.

Major Paul Galimore new OC 299 Sqn introduced himself to the association at the August meeting.

Paddy Nolan ex 1 Para and qualified Social Worker attended the same meeting and gave a full account of the intended 'Veterans Hub' planned for Hull later in the year.

Robbie's funeral took place on the 6th August 2019, massive turnout from 131, past and present, also support from the Royal Marines, RAF Regt, Para Regt, friends and neighbours. RIP Robbie.

Birmingham branch of the AEA had kept 299 up to date on **Davey Bowren's** health issue's (double amputee) are now reporting that his health is fading quickly and he is moving into a hospice.

Tony Foster's wife **Debra** has been informed that her damaged arm may have to be removed after her near death experience in a road accident.

Annual Memorial Service and Parade at the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington, York, standards were paraded with 22 members supporting from this association.

Eamon Smyth sent photos of the plaque template before submission to the RN Workshops, all OK.

Dave Bowren died 6th Sept. 2018 with his daughter **Bonny** by his side.

A letter received from **John Donaldson** on behalf of the Scottish branch of the AEA thanking the men from 299 for the support given in his attempts in gaining medallic recognition for their actions during 1965 in Aden.

Arnhem Pilgrimage, 40 enjoyed this trip including 7 Brummies' Good to have them on-board.

The funeral for **Davey Bowren** took place on 6th Sept. 2018, yet again was very well attended as could be expected for this very popular man from Birmingham, 12 attended from 299 plus standard.

Cromwell lock Memorial Service took place on the 23rd Sept. 2018 with only 2 from this association attending **Bri Bilton & Dave Hines**, the bulk of 299 are never able to attend this service because the organisers, (Newark PRA), insists on choosing the Arnhem weekend when most AEA members are in Holland. This is something I have great difficulty with, as the disaster happened on the 28th of the month. **WHY? This association still has 5 men that were on the exercise that night, but are denied their remembrance.**

AEA Gala Ball 13th October 2018 down at Chatham with only the **Tindle** brothers attending from 299, **Martin & Mike. Martin** received a Presidents Commendation for 15 years continuous service as a committee member with the 299 Association, and he has the scars to prove it.

A big 'thank you' received from **Sgt Paul Robinson (young Robbie), RAF Regt.** and he directed his thanks mainly at **Dave Hines (Web master)**, for producing a 299 Memorial calendar in his father's name, something he will always treasure. These calendars were put to sale amongst the membership, along with photos taken at the Yorkshire Air Museum Memorial Service and Parade by **Tony Costello**, both men refused to take money for their expenses, directing all takings to the association's funds, yet again we have '**Service not Self**'

Another death from Birmingham, **Ray Sands**, one of the old Brigade, served in the 50's – 60's, supplied and paid for the Birmingham branch AEA standard. N/B died and was buried in October, not sure of dates.

Steve McMahon is rushed into Hull Royal Infirmary with liver problems, signs are ominous.

Ex 299 Commando Royal Engineer and a soldier of the very special kind; **Rich Gill** was photographed waving a 299 Association rugby shirt at the top of Mont Blanc, 'What on earth is a matter with him? Where's his pipe and slippers?

The hardy volunteers turned out to set up the Halloween experience for the kids of North Brandsholme Estate in Hull, at the request of **Councillor Harrison**.

On the 2nd November 2018 **John Duffy** telephoned me with the devastating news that his wife **Fay** had just died, he was obviously in pieces and heavy in grief, he just wanted to let me know, because he had nobody left in his life to confide in, his daughter died in July, freak accident, he lost his only son aged just 16 to Cystic Fibrosis a few years ago and now his wife has gone, '**there can be a side to life that is so very cruel**'. **Fay's** funeral took place on 25th November 2018 and a few association men with wives attended to support him. In time, we hope to see him back with the association, when he feels ready.

Les Ransom (Arnhem vet), had been invited to be the guest of Honour by the Chairman of the Meriden Rotary Club **Mike (Oz) Holdsworth** for a Remembrance Day Dinner, actually held on the 13th Nov. with the proceeds going to SSAFA, he was chaperoned throughout the weekend by one of our serving members **Cpl Tom James 1 Troop 299 Para Sqn RE**. This act of kindness by **Tom** was much appreciated.

The medics got **Big Steve Mac** up and running again, and sent him away with a 'boll...ing' Orange juice only!

A very well attended Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday Parade, (48), with many more back at the Minerva, the association was joined by 1 Tp 299 Para Sqn RE, great raffle and buffet with wreaths laid at the Cenotaph by **Bri Bilton & Dave Hines**, and the full event captured on film by **Tony Foster**. Well done to all.

Good news from Scotland via **Angus Mac Neil MP** revealed **John Donaldson's** battle for the GSM clasp 'South Arabia' had finally been successful for his comrades in arms, who were killed or wounded in the battle of Al Milah in Aden 1965. The medal ceremony took place for former **Capt. Eodghann MacIachlainn** on 16th December at Edinburgh Castle, presentation by the Governor. This was a massive result for **John** which helped to expose an act of outrageous discrimination against reservist soldiers and lasting over the past 53 years, with nobody being held to account.

Former Recce Sgt John Davis is now in need of 24 hour care and has been moved to a care home in Doncaster. For further details contact **Bud Oldfield**.

Chairman Chris Shillito led a small group from this association including standard via **Tony Irwin** on a wreath laying service at "To the Fallen" memorial on North Brandsholme Estate in Hull, they were joined by City Councillors including the Lord Mayor of Hull, and this all happened on 8th November 2018, 299's wreath was laid by **Tony Kitching**.

On the 5th Dec. a small group of volunteers answered a request from our City fathers to help build a 'Santa's Grotto' in the Ash Plantation, this again was for the children on the North Brandsholme Estate in Hull.

Andy Green announced his intentions for a Charity/Dinner Dance to be held during March 2019.

As Christmas 2018 drew nearer, health considerations had to be given for our members and their families:

Pete Robson suffered a stroke and is thankfully very well in recovery.

Graham Beaumont (Bea) struggles on with thrombosis, along with other ongoing problems.

Carol & Dave Mace from Botany Bay both have big worrying issues, and are full on in survival mode.

Charlie Lickiss has not been well for months despite his acute sight problems.

Jack Brook's son is very poorly with cancer and is being cared for by his parents at their home.

Debra Foster had her damaged arm removed a few days before Christmas, still suffering the aftermath of her road accident.

Paul Hairsine (Hairy) back at work with a brand new pace maker, and looking good.

Dave Woollas in the middle of having his full under carriage retweeked, new knees and more.

John (Willy) Harrison recovered well from his surgery and is very positive with his follow up treatment.

This first Christmas was hard for the bereaved amongst us, and our thoughts and prayers went out to them.

The January meeting had to be cancelled at short notice due to emergency maintenance at the Minerva.

Lt Col (Retd) Paul Scobie died on 11th January 2019, aged 85 years. Joined the Army aged 16 and saw operations with 9 Sqn during the Suez crises, also fought in Aden at the battle of Al Milah in 1965 as PSI to 300 Para Sqn, 131 Para Regt (V) RE. He commanded the pall bearer party from 300 Para Sqn for **SSM Lonergan** at Maalah Cemetery in Aden

.Former WO2 (SSM) Al Stewart died on 23rd January 2019, aged 55 years. **Al** spent most of his career in 59 and 131 Independent Commando Squadrons, and served all over the world, including the Gulf War in 1990/91, Iraq (again) in 2003, Afghanistan (three times), Pakistan in response to the Kashmir earthquake in 2005, the far East and South Africa on EX OCEAN WAVE, Norway (many times), Jordan and the United States. 131 would not be the Squadron it is now, but for **Al's** influence, selflessness and, above all, his humour over many years.

Al's funeral took place on the 7th February 2019 and was well supported by his friends and comrades from this association.

Big Steve McMahon (Mac) was rushed into HRI again due to the same old problem, (liver) and is very poorly, the consequences of his drinking habit is driving his family and friends crazy with worry, the association vows to get involved in his life to try and turn him around, that is if the medics can save him on this occasion.

Charity Dinner/Dance on 15th March 2019 organised by **Andy Green** with the money raised going to 'The Pilgrim Bandits' guest speaker **Rusty Firman (ex SAS)** of Iranian Embassy fame, also present **L/Cpl Ben Parkinson OBE**. Massive success with plenty of money raised **over** a full night of entertainment.

Maj (Retd) Steve Beck died on Friday 22nd March 2019, aged 56 years, following a short illness. Started as a TA sapper in 73 Engr Regt, and later been a troop commander in 59. Played a major part in ensuring that 131 did not become a casualty of the 1998 Strategic Defence Review.

Miraculously **Mac** had been sent home from Hull Royal Infirmary after being read the riot act by just about everybody, only to be readmitted again early April, but this time there would be no coming back, and sadly he died on Sunday 14th April 2019.

Arnhem vet **Les Ransom** celebrated his 97th birthday on the 5th April at the Minerva, (meeting night), a good meeting ensured, topped off with plenty of cake supplied by his family.

Eamon Smyth received the finished Toscaig Bridge plaque from the RN workshops, splendid job, he asks 299 Association what to do with the aluminium template? Still to be decided. £100 had been donated from this association to a Royal Navy charity of the workshop's choice. **Eamon's** efforts were rightfully praised.

Former L/Cpl Steve McMahon's funeral took place on Monday 29th April 2019, approximately 50 – 60 ex 299 men lined his route to the Chapel, **former Capt. John Thompson & best friend** gave the Eulogy which praised and amplified the character of this larger than life and most popular young man. **RIP MAC.**

I would just like to thank the rest of the committee for their input in helping to make this association function, no one man can run an association of this size on his own, it has to be a team effort, and this is not forgetting the most important component which is of course you people, without you guys there would be no association, therefore thanks to you all for your company, and long may it last. **G. Coe**

Chairman's report: Chris Shillito 299 Association

Gentlemen, I need to ask the following question: are we happy with our title? ` **299 Association** `

We are unique within the military, as we did 31 years Para and 28 years Commando as 131. In 2006 our unit went back to Airborne again as 299 Para Squadron, but nobody knows what the future holds as we are ROYAL ENGINEERS and are in big demand, it may end up going back Commando again, nobody knows.

We wear the Pegasus and the dagger within our Blazer Badge and wings and daggers on our rugby and tee shirts.

131 designed the tie with wings and daggers on it, but when 131 stopped being independent and joined 24 Cdo they did not wear wings on their ties anymore, but 23 do not wear daggers on theirs, therefore we now call the tie the 299 Association tie.

Our name; the 299 Association covers all the bases, if you are Para or Commando or a Royal Marine or indeed Para Regiment or Para RASC as our 97 year old Arnhem veteran **Les Ransom** was, also our civilian friends of 299, who are a big part of our association.

We have members of the AEA and the CEA, but if we add the prefix Airborne or Commando to our name, a large part of our association gets left out, which in my opinion is wrong, but it is up to you! Remember this..... **299 Association is written on our Standard, Cheque Book/Bank Account, Blazer Badge, Minute Headings, Wreaths, Rugby Shirts, and always has been since the Association was formed in May 2002.**

Are we all happy with this? If so, can we put our name; **299 ASSOCIATION** to a confirmatory vote for it to remain so? This is to be a constitutional vote, therefore full membership voters only.

This motion was proposed by Alan McGlynn and seconded by Kevin Saddington with the vote `FOR` keeping our original name in place being unanimous.

SPENDING ASSOCIATION MONEY

We spoke about how we spend association money at the March meeting, a few members have the view that we should spend the money we have.

It is not easy giving money to members, it has been said we could subsidise the Arnhem trips, but not everyone goes to Arnhem, therefore members who do not go lose out. It seems pointless to spend all our money and then have to go round trying to get subs from members, a job I would not relish. The money is hard earned by the members fund raising, e.g. **Simbo's** bus stops every month, **Dave Hines** with calendars, CD's, fridge magnets and much more, items donated, raffle prizes kindly given by you guys paid for our buffet on remembrance day, ink for the printed minutes and correspondence, presentations and transport and I believe it is always handy to keep some by in case of an emergency, or if any of our members require help with wheelchairs, or any other help we can provide.

Our system of not paying subscriptions and using what is required from the pot, in my opinion is the best way forward, but again it's up to you. This was put to a confirmatory vote, full members only with this motion asking if the membership wants to continue with the current system.

This motion was proposed by Pete Robson and seconded by Tony Weldon with the vote `FOR` continuation of the current system being unanimous.

Chris proceeded to thank the rest of the committee for their support and hard work in making this association a success, and he highlighted the efforts of **Andy Green** who organised and ran a 299 fund raising night for the charity 'Pilgrim Bandits' guest speaker **Rusty Firman** of Iranian Embassy fame, also present **L/Cpl Ben Parkinson OBE** The night was a great success and raised almost £10,000 for this good cause. Well done. He praised **Rich Gill** upon reaching the summit of Mont Blanc in his advancing years, a great effort. **Ann & Kev Saddington** selflessness at the Cromwell Lock memorial, 'Service not self'

The association website is well used, especially the message board which, at times proves essential, and is the responsibility of **Dave Hines**, this is something every 299 man should view, ask a relative if you are not IT savvy, the Roll of Honour page allows **Dave Hines** to experiment with music from the range of Abide with me to Pack up your troubles in....., this is well worth a view. **Chris** thanked **Dave** for his input.

Our official Standard bearer is **Tony Irwin**, he carries our Standard as a part of the CESA organisation in the Hull area and promotes this association's name far & wide, **Chris** thanked him and also included others who step in when needed: **Art. Stimpson, Paul Sims and Pete Robson**.

Tony Foster: ex 4 Para has become our official photographer and we are lucky to have him, he covers the Rugby League Club HKR, (Hull Kingston Rovers) games, and he does his level best to improve their skills on the field using celluloid, with great difficulty may I add, we all acknowledge **Tony's** dedication to this association, and thank him.

The Chairman then invited **Gary Coe** to say a few words about **Martin Tindle** who will be stepping down from the committee this evening:

My introduction to the Tindle family came through their eldest son **Mike**, he signed on with 299 (attestation) at Middleton Barracks on the same day as me in 1964, we had never met each other before this, and went through our basics together, and have remained friends to this day. I met **Mike's** younger brothers **Malcom & Martin** at various Squadron get-together's and expected them both to follow their elder brother into the Para's, but **Malcom** went for the REME and **Martin** left the country (South Africa) plying his trade as an Aircraft Technician. Eventually he came back to the UK and took his chance with 299 whilst still in age to be a Paratrooper. He had a few close calls during his service, he was on the Kiel Canal mass drop debacle, being one of the lucky ones, also found himself directly behind the disaster at the Cromwell Lock, just to name two.

The **Tindle** family are well respected and nobody can doubt their honesty, this is a credit to their parents and their upbringing. When **Martin** volunteered to take on the association Treasurers job, all those years ago, we knew we were in safe hands. He has completed 15 years continuous service in this post, this is some achievement when considering the association is only 17 years old, but he is now ready for a break. His time on the committee has not been easy, as some of you know, friendships have been tested, and some lost, maybe for ever. He always follows the democratic route, maintaining his integrity which was never in doubt, rising above the many un-pleasantries generated by a contemptuous few.

Gary thanked him for his service, also, his friendship and then presented him with a statue of Pegasus, ridden by Bellerophon on a hard wood plinth in recognition of his loyal service to 299 Association.

Lt Col. Chris Wilcock called on all members to thank the Committee for this last year's administration, recognising that these roles can, at times be a thankless task, with volunteers being hard to come by.

NEW COMMITTEE

The incumbents then stood down, the vacant Treasurer's position needed to be filled, all other positions will be filled again by last year's committee, **Glenn Ratten** volunteered to take on the vacant Treasurers position, this package was then put to the meeting, proposer **Mike Beardshaw**, seconded by **Brian Bilton**, with the vote 'FOR' being unanimous. **Glenn** was welcomed in by the meeting.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Relevant correspondence:

Many messages posted on the association's message Bd, surrounding the death of **Steve McMahon**, between the following dates: 14th – 19th April.

The news broke on the 14th through **John Thompson** he wrote: It comes with great sadness to say, **Steve, (Mac), McMahon** has passed away this morning with his family around him, a great 299 personality, **RIP Mac, (fat fingers)**.

Hairy wrote: **Mac**, thanks for the memories with the troop, thanks for coaching my boys at West Hull Boxing Club. A big 299 character that will be talked about for years, RIP buddy.

Chris Shillito wrote: So sad to lose a loyal 299 man, such a terrible waste, RIP old friend.

Alan Lee wrote: So sad to hear the loss of our old friend **Mac**, apart from the troubled path he followed there was a really decent guy in there with a big heart and the loudest of laughs to brighten any gathering, **Mac** always had time for you and was a good soldier, friend to many, RIP mate and my deepest condolences to the family.

Carlos wrote: Farewell **Macca**, a sad loss to the Commando, Airborne and Boxing fraternity. Some great memories of a big character that will stay with us forever, **RIP Steve**.

Robbie wrote: **RIP Mac**, gone, but you will always be remembered, the only man I knew who could swamp 2 beds in one night and still deny it, see you in **Parkys** Bar for a catch up.

Sapper G from Bulgaria wrote: Sad news, highly regarded by all and a tough old boot, **RIP Mac**.

Fred Gray, email dated 22/4/2019. Many thanks for the minutes of the last meeting. I did intend to be up in Hull for the AGM, but I have a dental and hospital appointments, cancer related, and cannot afford to miss them. Will be in Hull on 7th June and hope to attend that meeting.

Please pass on my very best wishes to all 299 members and I look forward to my next meeting.

Reply:

Fred you will always be made most welcome at 299, you are an automatic life member because of your service with in the unit, and this gives you the right to vote on all matters. We don't use association membership cards as such, but we do know every man that has served in the unit, red or green.

Eamon Smyth, email dated 24/4/2019. I am finally in possession of the new plaque, was difficult to photograph as it is highly polished, it is a virtually a mirror. Well done Royal Navy....was well worth the wait.

Eamon Smyth, email dated 29/4/2019. What would the 299 Association feel about the aluminium template plaque being given to Middleton Barracks for display at their location? **Gordon McLeod** is organising a photo of the installed replacement plaque, a copy which would be sent to accompany the plaque in Hull.

As we have no fixed premises there is no place to keep it.

I could drop it into Calvert Lane Barracks on my way South after the insulation!

N/B: This was put to the meeting for a decision with the general consensus being in agreement with **Eamon**. **Sgt Tom James 299 Sqn** is prepared to accept the template & photo at Middleton Barracks on behalf of the association and he was thanked for this at the meeting. I will write to **Eamon** and give him the good news.

Tony Foster wrote on the message bd, 30/4/2019. **Macca** would have been very proud of the great turnout of the lads from 299 to see him off.

Pete Wolstenholme wrote on the message bd.3/5/2019. I would like to say a big thank you to **Chris Shillito** and all the lads that attended **Mac's** funeral. **Mac's** last few years of illness could have been his mum's and daughter's main memory of him, but for the spectacle of 299 Association as they entered the Crematorium to remind them of the man he was, and all knew. I know **Mac** would have been grateful to you all. **Rest in Peace Mate.**

Chris Shillito replied to the above on the message bd. 3/5/2019. On behalf of the lads of 299 thanks for that **Pete, Macca** was one of us, and we always look after our own. It would be nice to see you at one of the meetings.

Matters arising:

Renewal of the plaque on Toscaig Bridge

We were honoured tonight in having **Maj Olaf Dudley** as a guest, and he was invited to give a brief outline of the above venture and we thanked him for this.

Those of you with the computer have already had a full script, those without and wanting this info, contact the Secretary.

Eamon has undertaken to get a high quality replacement plaque produced by the Royal Navy, which he will fit over the period 29-30th May 2019. Applecross is a wonderful place, and well worth the effort to get to. If you wish to join **Eamon** for the insulation please contact him directly on eamon301@hotmail.co.uk

The Funeral of former L/Cpl Stephen McMahon, known as Mac

Mac's Funeral took place on Monday 29th April 2019 at the Chanterlands Avenue Crematorium in Hull.

On this cool grey day up to 60 of his comrades lined the cortege route to the Chapel all wearing their berets, a mixture of red & green coming together to say good bye to this larger than life character with that unmistakable laugh.

His best friend former **Capt. John Thompson** presented his Eulogy and held it together well, he told us all that **Mac** joined 299 Troop, 131 Indep Cdo Sqn in 1986 after leaving the Prince of Wales, passing out of the Commando Training Centre RM, Lympstone in Devon during the summer of 1987 as one of the famous 8, all gaining their green berets, biggest group to pass out together from the same Troop, made a bit of Sqn history, yet to be beaten. The same year he did his Parachute wings course at RAF Brize Norton and wore them with pride, went on to do more than 100 jumps serving with 299.

He had a natural love for Boxing which suited his normal standard of fitness and when not soldiering he would make time for the youngsters down at the club.

He felt a need to be wanted and was always generous with his time, he was basically a decent guy who struggled with his own demons.

John told a couple of the many stories about **Mac** that will live forever in the association memory book, much of it exemplifies the character of the man who was "highly regarded and a tough old boot, stand down soldier your duty is done"

The Chairman asked the meeting to be upstanding for one minutes silence for us all to think about the people we have lost over the past 12 months.

Social Calendar:

Clay Pigeon Shoot on Saturday 11th May 2019

Kick off from 9:30hrs at the Bygott Wood Target Centre, Cherry Burton, Near Beverley, HU17 7RB.

Contact **Tony Kitching** on Mb: 07930015184 for further details, usually a good laugh with a bit of completion.

Bring the family, everybody is welcome, enjoy a few drinks after with a free-gratis buffet provided in the pub.

Simbo's bus Stop: 2 winners this month Olaf Dudley with Coat and Martin Lawrence with Bra.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: Friday June 7th 2019, Minerva, Nelson St. Hull at 20:00hrs.

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

Dates for your diary:

Allied Air Forces Memorial Day – 1st September 2019.

Service & Parade as previous years, details TBC.

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.

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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, 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

