



299 ASSOCIATION

Charity No: 1009201

Date: November 7th 2014

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, G. Coe, N. Cooper, L Cross, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, J. Duffy, R. Franklin, C. Ham, J Hardy, D. Harvey, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, T. James, C. Lickiss, M. McKenzie, S. Mell, F. Pougher, K. Robinson, P. Robson, K. Russell, C. Shillito, L. Smith, Mart. Tindle, Mike. Tindle, K. Turner, A. Weldon, B. Weaver, C. Wilcock.

Apologies: G. Ratten, C. Woodward, P. Sims, N. Arksey, M. Maddison, P. Robinson, L. Ransom, W. Draper, C. Gadd, A. Costello, G. Beaumont, C. Duggan, C. Henrickson, J. Harrison, K. Saddington, R. Swatman, C. Walker, A. Kitching, S. Hoyle.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The chairman welcomed all present then opened the meeting.

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

Proposed by – P. Robson
Seconded by – F. Pougher

Treasure's Report: Showing our funds as healthy.

Correspondence:

“Advanced warning orders from the AEA”

The next Reunion/AGM will be held at the Royal Court Hotel, Kersley, Coventry, during the weekend 16th – 19th October 2015. Booking forms will be enclosed in the December Journal; for those who do not receive the Journal and want to attend please contact me on 01757 268188.

The costings are as follows:

£135 p/p for 3 nights BB & Dinner.

£120 -----2 -----

£65 -----1 -----

Gala Dinner only, (non-residents), £20 p/p.

Dave Rutter, (AEA Journal editor), received a letter of appreciation, dated 15/10/2014, from the charity “Combat Stress” in reply to an AEA donation of £100, the letter was read out at this meeting. This donation was a part of the £413 total raffle receipts taken at this year's reunion, the remainder went to the following:
“Help for Heroes” £213 & “BLESMA” £100.

Letter of thanks to this association from Woodhall Spa: I quote

"I'm writing to thank the men from this association for supporting the Arnhem 70th Commemoration held on September 6th 2014. I have pleasure in enclosing the official film, best viewed in HDD, which captures the people and events so poignantly. I hope you enjoy reminiscing"

Best wishes. Jackie Goodall, (event co-ordinator).

N/B: Chris Shillito is copying this video for those who attended the event.

Letter of thanks from Bill Dick's family: Chris Shillito read this very kind letter to the meeting; the family expressed their thanks to this association/ Squadron for the care, respect and attention shown for Bill at his untimely death. Mathew, (Son) has enclosed a memory stick containing many of Bills photographs of 299 activities from the past, Mike Beardshaw is going to view first, select, and then pass on to the next man. This can go around to all interested parties, including our Archives.

Sqn News: The new Squadron PSI sent apologies for his absence due to a planned exercise start being brought forward; he hopes to make the next meeting.

S/Sgt. Carl Ham gave a brief account of **HAR: High Activity Reserve**, this is the term used for a section of men, to be highly trained to a state of operational readiness at all times, this is expected from units of Airborne Reservists to bolster and reinforce immediately the Regular Army in times of need. Selected and committed men will spend up to a year at a time in intensive battle trained readiness, to meet this requirement. We suspect this is a government driven solution in meeting their mandate for cutting the numbers of regular soldiers. `Let's hope all employers are up for it`

Space age technology has moved onto the ranges: target marking can now be achieved via the electronic eye pad along with corrective info, no excuse for missing! Everyone's a winner.

Sapper Lee Cross has landed himself a sky diving course in California latter this month, `well done Lee, that's nice work when you can get it`

Carl kindly invited the association down to the Barracks for refreshments after the Remembrance Sunday parade and we thanked him for this.

Social Calendar: There will be no meeting on the 5th December, it has been proposed and voted for to hold a social night at the "Minerva" to celebrate the time of the year, everybody is welcome.

Jolly Boys trip for 2015: The general consensus is that we are going to plan for a pilgrimage to Arnhem again in 2015, we therefore give notice that places can be secured in January at the next meeting with a non refundable deposit of £30 p/p, dates, timings and other details to follow, although we do anticipate a 6 & 4 day option again. This does not mean a trip to anywhere else is out of the question, if there are enough people interested, other considerations could be looked at.

Chairman's Comments:

The Chairman, Bill Drayton, explained the membership criteria for the 299 Association, this is for the benefit of some of our newer members after enquiries had been made about application forms and subscriptions.

Application forms are not necessary, we have people and records' spanning the whole of 299's existence, therefore everybody is known to us, **service within the unit, in any capacity is all that is needed for full membership status, all are welcome.** This does not distract from our much needed and valued honouree members, whose presence is essential and welcomed for the general well being of the group.

The current membership has deemed it not necessary to ask for subscriptions at this moment in time, this may not always be the case, with you,` **the members`**, making that decision, remember, this association belongs to us all and it's you people that pull the strings.

The 299 Association is affiliated, to the AEA, (Airborne Engineers Association), simply because more than 50% of our members have **individually** and proudly chosen to join this association, we also have 299 men proudly belonging to many other organisations, for example: CEA, (Commando Engineers Association), PRA, (Parachute Regimental Association), etc. **It's a free country**, and if required, membership forms for any organization can be supplied through the Secretary, just ask.

Enrolment into the AEA or any other organization is NOT compulsory, nor a prerequisite for full membership status within this association.

The one unifying factor is, that at some time during our lives, we have all served or are serving with the 299 RE, and it is this fact alone which ensures any future for this association, the future 299 generations are essential for our continuous survival, and we would be very short sighted indeed to ignore this fundamental requirement. This marks a return to the original principles laid down by the founder members at the formation of this association, to which most of us signed up for, but has somehow been overlooked during the last few years.

The following is an extract from the 299 Association minutes of Friday. 2nd August. 2002.

"This association should have a formal charter which reflects the aims and ideals of the association. The following was offered to the members present at this evening's meeting for their consideration"

N/B

This Charter was drawn up by Bill Dick, the elected Secretary at this time. This was the 4th meeting in this association's history.

299 ASSOCIATION CHARTER

The aims and ideals of the association are decreed as being:

- (a) To promote and maintain contact with past and PRESENT members of 299 RE.
- (b) To promote and encourage such events as may bring pleasure to members of the 299 Association.
- (c) To relieve where practical, any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of The 299 Association.
- (d) To promote and maintain contact with like members of other units within 131 Independent RE.

Bill Drayton proposed the Charter be accepted, Keith Robinson seconded, and it was unanimously accepted.

This Charter still stands to this day, it has never been voted out, although it has being disregarded and ignored by some previous administrations who decided to make up their own rules. However, I would like you all to consider the values this Charter stands for, because it should be of interest to everybody in the future development of this association, I would encourage an open discussion on this matter at the next meeting, because we must never lose sight of, or allow our core values to be tempered with again.

Items from members:

Tony Irwin brought the meeting up to date with the proceedings that took place on Saturday 18th October 2014 at Edan Camp. This was an annual reunion and service for the veterans of British military forces and Palestine Police who served between 1923 and 1948. We have to thank the men who attended, especially our Standard Bearers who carried on our behalf; Colin Woodward carried the Palestine Veterans with Tony Irwin carrying the 299 Association.

Charlie Lickiss brought his large collection of Aden photos for our Archivist to go through, many thanks Charlie.

Former Squadron OC Chris Wilcock brought **Col. Bowden's** American wings; the paper certification is to follow. "**Deno**" has taken charge of them for the time being.

Special thanks must go to **Tony Irwin** who took it upon himself to plant Remembrance cross's on behalf of this association to the graves of **Stanley Robinson** and **Brian Coe**.

Jack Brooks gave a very interesting but brief history of the WW1 centenary events in and around The Wenlock Barracks, Hull. One hundred years ago these barracks processed all the men enlisting from the East Riding of Yorkshire, every man had to pass through this place, and to mark the centenary of these events all names are to be displayed on wall mounted boards with the unveiling taking place on the 8th Nov.

Jack also helped with the eligibility criteria on some new medals and clasps which have just been released with special attention being shown to the Cyprus 1963 clasp where some members had seen service. No news on the Aden GSM.

Congratulations must go to **Craig Gadd** for the excellent interview he gave on the BBC Inside Out documentary which covered the military's treatment and evacuation of casualties in Afghanistan.

Paul Sims "Simbo" took his skiffle group to The British Legion Club in Hornsea; they managed to bring the house down to the tune of £1,200 for the "Help for Heroes" Brilliant effort Simbo, who said all the "Teddy boys" are dead.

The Chairman asked for two volunteers from this association for wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in Hull and **Lee Smith** and **Tony Irwin** stepped forward, and we thanked these men.

The Chairman went on to thank everybody for contributing to what proved to be a very enjoyable meeting.

Next Meeting: To be held at 20.00hrs in the "Minerva" Corporation Pier, Hull, on the 2nd January 2015,

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9th November 2014

This association paraded 27 plus Standard, the biggest number of men so far with a few partaking for the first time. The weather was kind and everything went to plan, we managed to pick up some old 299er's enroute, Charlie, (Tug), Wilky and Rich Gill at the end, and thanks to John Tommo, Steve McMahon popped into the Minerva for a pint with a few of his old mates, he's getting himself together and hopes to start coming down to the meetings again. I know I speak for a lot of people on congratulating you men on this turnout; you've done this association and your selves much credit. Feedback from spectators is all positive. Those who went back to the Barracks enjoyed a splendid spread, this along with some good company and everybody was made most welcome, all this then Les Ransom turned up, thanks to his loving daughter Mary Ann, he's not being too good over the last few weeks but a couple of pints with his old mates soon sorted him out. Special thanks must go to S/Sgt Carl Ham and the lad's for organizing everything at the Barracks; you put on a marvellous spread and that was appreciated by all, we thank you for your commitment to this association. Finally; those of us who complained about our aches and pains, dodgy knees, etc. Spare a thought for "Gaddy" he completed the full parade, including the service on that **tin leg**, "my knees feel better already"

Memorial Plaques:

A service of unveiling took place after the Remembrance Parade witnessed by dignitaries and ex-service personal; also Standards were presented with a full Guard of Honour. Many thanks again to Colin Woodward for carrying on our behalf.

These wooden memorial plaques have been installed on the arches of Paragon Station at the Ferensway entrance, (opposite the Cenotaph), **to coincide with the centenary commemoration marking the beginning of the Great War.**

The names of more than 2,000 Hull servicemen have been hand carved on to 20 different boards and will hang in the station as a reminder of their sacrifice. These men would have travelled from this station to fight abroad, never to return.

These plaques had been carved by the inmates at HMP Hull, with the names supplied by the British and Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The initial idea was developed by the inmates and staff of the prison, and all credit must go to them for a brilliant piece of work, which is probably unique throughout the land.

ARMISTICE DAY TUESDAY 11th November 2014



Courtesy of Tony Costello

Cenotaph, Hull, 11/11/2014

Tony Irwin

Bill Drayton
(Chairman)

Colin Woodward

Eight association men paraded on this day at the Cenotaph in Hull, the British Legion requested all Standards. Tony Irwin carried the 299 and Colin Woodward carried the Palestine Veterans. Forty to fifty vets formed two rows for introducing to the Lady Mayor, Councillor Brady, the start and finish for the 2min silence was signalled by an artillery piece. The whole proceedings was witnessed by a larger than usual crowd this year, thus marking the centenary for the start of WW1.

The 299 Association men in attendance: A. Irwin, C. Woodward, W. Drayton, P. Sims, A. Costello, D. Ideson, C. Gadd, C. Shillito.

