



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

Date: 6th November 2015

Members Present: D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, J. Duffy, J. Duggan, R. Franklin, D. French, C. Gadd, P. Hairsien, D. Harvey, M. Halliday, D. Hines, P. Jefferson, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, J. Mace, M. Maddison, O. A. Nelson-Girchen, F. Pougher, L. Ranson, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, K. Russell, K. Saddington, C. Shillito, P. Sims, R. Swatman, Mart. Tindle, Mike. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, P. Wolstenholme, D. Woollas.

Apologies: R. Able, J. Cherry, G. Crum, G. Grindley, C. Ham, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, T. James, C. Lickiss, F. Rands, P. Robinson, P. Robson, L. Smith, B. Steel, J. C. Thompson, T. Walker, C. Wilcock, C. Woodward.

Guests: A. Foster.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The acting Chairman; **Chris Shillito** welcomed all to a very well attended meeting, and then invited our Arnhem veteran; **Les Ransom** to recite the "Exhortation" this being the last meeting before Armistice Day, **Les** obliged readily with a strong, slightly emotional voice, never the less, a job well done, and he was thanked for his contribution.

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

Proposed by – **W. Drayton**

Seconded by – **T. Cunningham**

Treasure's Report: Martin reported that our funds are still healthy.

Correspondence: 131 VETERANS' e – BULLETIN, 30TH OCTOBER 2015

A message for all former members of 131; from Captain O S Dudley, Recruiting Officer for 131 Commando Squadron RE. I quote:

"It's really important for all of us at 131 to keep in touch with the wider 131 family, and our former members are a crucial part of this"

N/B: **Duds** has put this bulletin together as the first of occasional periodicals, as and when the news presents itself. This is an excellent piece of work and of great interest to all in this association. I therefore urge everybody to register for receiving, and for those without the technology you must recruit the help of your children/grandchildren, or whoever, it is defiantly worth the effort.

All you have to do is click on this: <http://eepurl.com/bDKTQH> and follow the instructions, It will take less than 5 minutes.

As an example of content taken from this particular bulletin here is a piece on the inclusion of 131 into 24 Commando Engineer Regiment, and I quote:

"Looking to the future, 131 was already the unit with the widest spread of opportunities in the whole of the Army Reserve, and with the move to 24 Cdo, things got even better!

To put this in perspective, just over a year ago 131 was set to leave 3 Cdo Bde RM in October 2015 and become a sub-unit of an Armoured Engineer Regiment, the same fate was due to befall 299 Para Sqn. Sense was seen and that decision was reversed, meaning that the two leading Engineer Squadrons of the Army Reserve now sits in their rightful place, in the heart of 24 Cdo Engr Regt and 23 Para Engr Regt respectively"

3 COMMANDO BRIGADE ROYAL MARINES

< Engineer Support >

16 AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE

24 Cdo Engr Regt

23 Para Engr Regt

54 COMMANDO SQUADRON RE

9 PARACHUTE SQUADRON RE

59 ----- / -----

51 ----- / -----

131 ----- / ----- Reservists

299 ----- / ----- Reservists

N/B:

This month 16 Air Assault Brigade will reinstate our airborne heritage by introducing back the Pegasus with Bellerophon shoulder patch in place of the American style screaming eagle motif worn at present. The new patch will be worn on the left sleeve, with the para wings and engineer DZ flash worn on the right.

Sqn News: The Squadron is currently serving in Cyprus, and will be for a few more weeks yet, therefore not available for Remembrance Sunday.

Social Calendar:

Bikeliner, (tour organizers), have kindly done some homework on our behalf, as requested by some of the membership:

- a) The Arnhem Pilgrimage for 2016, another possible hotel has being located approximately 2 km from the city centre, (just over a mile), similar standard and price to that of other years but within the city itself, this would be a change from the Oosterbeek district of Holland if you are prepared to give it a go. Like most hotels you are never 100% sure until its being tried, there is always a slight risk of disappointment.
- b) It has being suggested that a 3 day trip to Normandy would be necessary just to get a flavour of what went on in 1944, (a fortnight would not be enough time to see it all), 3 days in Normandy actually means a 5 day trip in reality, ie. 1 day: drive down & overnight ferry and the same back, we would need at least 15 people to make it viable, and are looking at costings of around £300p/p. Suggested itinerary may go something like this:

Day 1 travel down to Portsmouth & overnight ferry, Day 2 Omaha Beach & American Cemetery's, Day 3 British/Canadian Beaches & perhaps a German Cemetery! Day 4 Arromanches & Pegasus Bridge, overnight ferry, Day 5, D-Day Museum in Portsmouth & travel back, hotel located on the Caen ring Road, not far from the Allies war Memorial, none of this is "nailed down" and **Simon Hawksley**, (bit of an expert and tour guide on WW2 Battle fields), is open to any reasonable requests from within the group, he would always try to fulfil our wishes. .

We would be looking at running this trip during April 2016, taking care to avoid the Easter Holidays, any later in the year and the prices go through the roof, especially around the D-Day anniversary, also we would start to run close to our Arnhem Pilgrimage. There you have it, the committee will be asking for your response on both counts to these proposals at the December meeting, therefore **PLEASE READ** your minutes, and if you can't attend the December meeting please make your commitments and decisions known to the committee, also be prepared to secure your place with a non - refundable deposit of £50p/p for this Normandy trip, we will not proceed on promises. This trip is still at the planning stage, but to have a chance of putting these things together decisions have to be made now. As with all our trips, this is open to friends and family alike, the more the merrier.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING COMPETITION AT BYGOTT WOOD, CHERRY BURTON, Nr BEVERLEY.

To be held on the 15th November 2015, kick off at 10.00hrs, see dates for your diary. **The Lord Mayor of Hull will be presenting the prizes, therefore the association asks for your support, should be a good day with the proceeds going to good causes via the Lord Mayor's Charity appeal fund, everybody is welcome.**

Location:

Bygott Wood lies just off the road that runs between the villages of Cherry Burton and Leconfield, this road is called Miles Lane and the wood its self is not far from The Cherry Burton Golf Course, you could approach it from either of the two villages, which are located a couple of miles North East from Beverley, off the York road.

Matters arising: **Craig Gadd, (Gaddy)**, amongst others, has been invited to speak to the Hull City Council after their Council meeting at the Guild Hall debating chamber on Thursday 19th November, this is in celebration of International Men's Day. **Craig** will be speaking as a representative of this association and association members are invited to attend in the public gallery, timings are to follow, therefore please watch the message board.

Acting Chairman Chris Shillito sends out regular text messages to all who wish to receive, reminders, etc. **He asks could you acknowledge, if and when received, just to let him know he's got through, OK would be suffice, you don't have to give a written answer. Thank you.**

Tony Foster, photographer and long-time friend of 299 attended this meeting after a chance meeting with **Simbo**, not only was there much renewing of friendships but **Tony** presented the association with many professional quality photos of 299 Troop taken during the 1980 – 90's, we thanked **Tony** for his generosity and friendship.

Tony Kitching announced that an excellent trophy has been donated as the first prize for the clay pigeon shoot which he has organized, and is taking place on Sunday 15th November. This most generous gift was given to the association by **Jack Brooks BEM**, it is a metallic sculpture of a Sapper in the prone position for the clearing mines, mounted on a hardwood plinth, this is a quality piece of work, and yet again we find ourselves thanking **Jack**.

Dave Hines has done us proud again, using his considerable computer skills and all his own materials he has produced a 2016 299 calendar, a separate photo for each month, these along with the many DVD's he's put together raised £83 of voluntary contributions at tonight's meeting, your commitment puts us all to shame **Dave**, and yet again we thank you.

Paul Sims, (Simbo), on behalf of the committee I thank you and **Gaddy** for the kind words you put on the message board, also thanks for taking care of the Bus stops, tonight's winner -> **Dave Hines**, and very well deserved.

Welfare report: Great to see **Graham Beaumont, (Beau)**, at tonight's meeting, still battling on with his health issue's but looking good on it, we must thank **Johnny Mace** for doing the business.

Colin Woodward: sadly **Woody** has been struggling for some time now, due to see a specialist on the 10th November, let's hope they can get him sorted out, we desperately need our Standard Bearer back fit and well. A card was passed around for all to sign.

The Chairman then closed what had been a very enjoyable meeting.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE, HULL CENOTAPH 2016

A brilliant turnout of 34, 299 Association men, biggest number recorded so far, well done to all, especially our Commando's, there was so much green amongst our ranks, it was almost like a "spring day" in early November, well done lads.

We had to endure a light shower during the muster, but it quickly went as fast as it came, with not too much of a wetting. **Simbo** did a sterling job by filling in for **Woody** in carrying the Standard, and our wreath layers performed their duties to perfection;

Capt. J. Thompson for the Squadron, **G. Ratten & M. Maddison** for the association, **A. Costello** for the Palestine Vets. This was a good parade, having two bands did make a difference, and as with other years we managed to pick up some old sweat's in time for the march past, more members for inclusion into the associations contact list. Then it was back to the Minerva for refreshments with more surprises from the past, this was a good day for the 299 Association.

Tony Irwin with Standard, will be at the Cenotaph in Hull on Armistice Day, 11.00hrs 11/11/2016 for any member wanting to offer support. The Committee thanks everybody for supporting these special days of Remembrance.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: to be held at the "Minerva" Corporation Pier, at 20.00hrs on Friday 4th December 2015

Dates for your diary:

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2015

Muster at Pease St, (Anlaby Rd) Hull at 9.50hrs for March off at 10.30hrs. Service at the Cenotaph 11.00hrs, our two volunteer wreath layers, one Red & one Green ex 299 men are in place, and ready to go.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING COMPETITION AT BYGOTT WOOD, Cherry Burton, Beverley.

On Sunday 15th November 2015, £15 for 25 clays, including cartridges, kicking off at 10.00hrs.

ALL WELCOME, BIG PRIZES, (honestly), profits to the Lord Mayor of Hull's charity appeal.

CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH A DIFFERENCE

At 19.30hrs on Friday 11th December 2015 in the Banqueting rooms, Guild Hall, Hull.
There may be a few tickets left; cancelations, etc. check with the committee.

N/B: If there are any special dietary requirements please let the committee know ASAP.

