



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

Date: Friday 2nd November 2018 at 20:00hrs in the Minerva

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, A. Foster, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, A. Green, M. Hall, C. Ham, D. Harvey, D. Hines, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, Capt. S. King, J. Mace, D. Meekin, K. Millington, P. Morris, G. Newton, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Russell, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, B. Steele, A. Stimpson, J. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, M. Williams, D. Woollas.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, D. Ideson, M. Maddison, M. Holdsworth, D. French, A. Homan, N. Busby, C. Duggan, C. Henrickson, S. Hoyle, A. Lee, S. McMahon, M. Sadler.

Guests: Benny Bridges, Ewan Norris, Ian Graves, Pauline Meekin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened this well attended meeting (41) by inviting **Pete Robson** to recite the "Ode of Remembrance" verse taken from **Binyons** poem 'For the Fallen' "They shall grow not old ~" He then went on to greet and introduce our guests, Pauline & Benny need no introduction, Ewan (ex-booty) and Ian (ex-matlow) came with friends and all were made most welcome.

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

Proposed by – **D. Hines**

Seconded by – **P. Robson**

Treasure's Report: **Martin** reports that all is well with our funds and thanked **Dave Hines** for the contributions to our funds from his production of 2019 299 dairies, full of snaps from the past.

Relevant correspondence:

Gaz Coe posted on the message bd, 9/10/2018. **JOHN DUFFY:** John's wife **Fay** died this morning around 4am. The association will send it's condolences and our thoughts are with him at this sad time.

He has lost his wife & daughter this year, friends are needed more than ever.

Chris Shillito posted on the message bd, 14/10/2018. Been to see **Steve McMahon** again this afternoon and there is a big improvement, he is hoping they will let him go home soon. He sends his best regards to all the 299 Association.

Steve Brown (Sec Bir'ham AEA) posted on the message bd, 15/10/2018. Congratulations to **Mart Tindle** on been awarded the Presidents Commendation for his work in the 299 Association. Well done **Martin**.

Chris Shillito posted on the message bd, 15/10/2018. I will second that **Steve**, well done **Martin** for the hard work in doing 15 years as the 299 Association Treasurer and a great association member.

Gaz Coe posted on the message bd, 17/10/2018. **JOHN DUFFY:** The funeral details of the said friend and association member's wife **FAY** have been released today, and are as follows:

It will be held at the Haltemprice Crematorium on Thursday 25th October 2018 at 11:30hrs.

I know that some members will want to attend.

No flowers please, but donations in **Fay's** memory will be going to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Tony Kitch. Posted on the message bd, 17/10/2018. This is a forwarded message from my sister; **Hull City Councillor Anita Harrison**, she asks: is there any of you guys willing to give a little time this year helping to put up the children's Halloween experience at the Ash Plantation on North Brandsholme?

If so, try and get there for 10am on the 31st Oct. the more turning up, the earlier the finish, any more info contact me on Mb: 07930015184.

This is a chance to do a bit for the less fortunate kids on this estate.

Andy Green Posted on the message bd, 22/10/2018, Details of the Pilgrim Bandits Charity Dinner.

N/B: details in section 'Dates for your Diary'

Dave Hines Posted on the message bd, 23/10/2018. There has been a poor response to the 5 day WW1 battle field tour which was proposed at a cost of £365p/p for the 21st March 2019, anyone interested should contact me by the next meeting otherwise the venture will have to be dropped. We have to have a minimum of 20 to run it.

Chris Shillito Posted on the message bd, 26/10/2018. Gentlemen, **Steve McMahon** is out of hospital, **Carl Ham** has been helping him get sorted. The men from 299 Association have been looking after **Mac** and giving him support, thanks to all concerned, a special thanks to **Neil Yates** who has been a good friend to him when needed, it's up to **Mac** now to stay off the booze and get himself back to full health, we have alerted **Paddy Nolan** and the Royal British Legion who are now giving him support.

Ken Newton Email dated 28/10/2018. Thanks for the October meeting minutes. I have read them a couple of times and wish I could get to your meetings, but it's a long way from Bournemouth. As you know I spent quite a few years with 299 until my work took me South where I took over command of 2 Company 10 Para. On retirement moved to Provence for 13yrs where we still have a daughter, before we moved back to Gosport near Portsmouth. I keep busy looking after the interests of ex-service men and women with SSAFA and on a MoD committee for pensions and advice. In addition, I am Chairman of the Portsmouth and District Branch of the PRA.

I remember with much pride and a lot of pleasure my time with 299 and am delighted you are all looking after each other. I will do my best to get up to your AGM if you let me have the details. My best wishes to all of you.

Welcome news from Scotland just arrived:

John Donaldson Email dated 2/11/2018. Dear all, I have just received a letter from the Ministry of Defence via **Angus MacNeil MP** to the effect that those members of 300 Parachute Field Squadron Royal Engineers who were killed and wounded in action at Al Milah, Radfan on 12th April 1965, will now receive the General Service Medal 1962 with Clasp South Arabia. This comes 53 years late, but better late than never.

I have informed **Eoghann Maclachlainn** and will inform the late **WO2 John Lonergan's son**.

I will have to continue this fight for the rest of the Squadron. **John**.

N/B: this is brilliant news, I would like to thank all those who supported this cause making **John Donaldson's** struggle seem less of a lonely task, the letter writing and badgering of MP's may not of contributed towards this rightful result as will always be claimed by the establishment, but, the one thing I do know for certain, is, it did the campaign no harm at all. **Well done John Donaldson**.

Sqn News: **Capt. Simon King OC 1 Tp 299 Sqn Para RE** popped into the meeting for a quick 'hello' after being held up in traffic for ever.

He reports the drive for recruits has got to take priority with the non-parachuting being a big problem for retention, the penguins loose heart, and this is regardless of the rumours coming up from Aldershot that 299 are 'hogging' all the jumps.

Social Calendar: The Pilgrims Bandits Charity, Friday 15th March 2019 (see dates for your Dairy).

Chairman's Comments: **Chris Shillito** opened up his section by asking **Tony Costello** to enlighten us all with the proceedings surrounding the Palestine vets final parade, (See items from members), he went on to thank the 299 Association men for supporting this parade including the standard bearing.

The Veterans 'Hub' launch for Hull was attended by some members and **Chris** invited **Tony Irwin** to spill the beans on **Paddy Noland**, the coordinator of this venture, and a long time ago, next door neighbour of **Tony**, this was before his 1 Para days. The launch went well, attracting a large attendance, the contact details for this Hub will always be included at the back of every newsletter, (minutes). The benefits and help **Paddy's** team can provide are without doubt amazing, reference; you must talk to **Simbo**.

The Chairman appealed to the meeting for everyone to observe a duty of care with regards to **Steve McMahon** especially to those who he served with, and are closest to him, **Mac** knows the consequences of his habit after the medics have struggled in getting him up and about and is adamant that he's not going down this route again, but we all know it's going to be hard, because we've been at this place with others and the 'Devil' plays havoc with idle hands. **Chris** thanks the 299 lads, especially **Carl Ham & Neil Yates**, that have supporting him over his latest crisis, after care may be more difficult because we all have lives to lead, perhaps a case for **Paddy Noland** at the Hub. **Carlos** informed the meeting that he has helped to put this in place, also other positives are **Steve** is now back communicating with his estranged mother which has got to help with his loneliness, his friends are a necessity at this time, even the quick phone call, it all helps.

Chris invited **Johnny Mace** to say a few words around the funeral of **Fay Duffy**, a few members supported **John Duffy** by their presence at this very moving service for his wife **Fay**, made even more poignant because of the loss of his daughter **Helen** in July of this year to a freak accident. None of us can imagine the heart ace our friend is going through at this moment in time, this association will always be ready to help in any way it can. **John** said "he will be back when he's got himself sorted" and thanks 299 for their support.

He gave a big thank you to the members of this association who gave time for the kids on North Brandsholm in Hull on the 31st (Halloween), **Councillor Harrison** is over the moon with our efforts, thanking the 299 Association yet again.

This year we enjoyed extra security at the Ash Plantation, rumours of Jap. Snipers brought an armed response to the area, and as luck would have it they were just in time for tea & biscuits '**boy**' **these men have it rough!**

Chris went on to congratulate **Mart. Tindle** upon receiving the Presidents Commendation for 15 years valued service as a committee member with 299 Association, he then presented him with a AEA tie pin sent up from 'head office'

His time on the committee has not being easy, as some of you know, friendships have been tested, and some lost, maybe for ever, over these past six years. He always maintained his integrity which was never in doubt and rose above the many unpleasant consequences generated within the association over this period in time.

Chris thanked him for his loyalty and commitment, knowing full well that he will always be a valued member of this association. **Martin** leaves the Treasurer's post at the next AGM in May 2019.

The Chairman reported that the total renovation of the late **Davey Bowron's** old wheel chair has being completed by **Tony Weldon (NHS technician supreme)** and will be stored in his attic awaiting the next customer, there has never been a better time to break your leg.!

Weldo has also taken control of organising the buffet to be held at the 'Minerva' after the Remembrance Day parade with the costs for this being shared between 1 Troop 299 Squadron Para RE & the Association.

Chris invited the meeting to view the 'Memorial' board which is now back in place and up to date thanks to **Paul Sims** who takes full responsibility for this job. If you can't find your name on it, you are looking far too early.

Simbo intends to run a raffle in the 'Minerva' on Armistice Day and is appealing for donations to help with prizes, all donations welcome, even on the day.

Chris appealed to the meeting for a chaperone for **Les Ransom** who is an invited honouree guest of the Birmingham Branch of the AEA to be held at the Meriden Hotel, junction 6 off the M42 on Tuesday 13th November 2019, **Dave Woollas** has kindly volunteered.

This association has being requested to lay wreaths at a monument named 'To the Fallen' on the Brandsholme Estate in Hull on Thursday 8th November 2018 at 10:30hrs, this is situated at Appin Close near the shops & Medical Centre. The Lord Mayor of Hull and the Privy Council will also lay wreaths after a short service, our Chairman would welcome any of you to support him in representing our association, the 299 standard will be present and all parade participants are invited back for post parade drinks & buffet.

Armistice/Remembrance Day Parade Sunday 11th November 2018

This is a call to parade for all association members, muster at 10:00hrs down Pease Street, Anlaby Road, Hull. Dress for parade. 1 Troop 299 Squadron Para RE will be parading in Hull again this year and will be joining the association after in the Minerva for refreshments, family & friends welcome.

The Chairman is hoping for a large turnout, therefore brush the Berets, red or green makes no difference we are all 299, polish the medals and I'll see you on the eleventh.

Welfare report: It's good to see **Pete Robson** at the meeting again after having his mild stroke, he's back driving and still receiving physio.

Mart Tindle brings news of another ex 299er stroke victim **Steve (Nobby) Oliver**, initially the effects seem to be mild, and after a few days in Hospital he is now receiving treatment at home, he sends his best wishes to all at the association.

Debbie Foster has finally being given a date for the removal of her arm, 4 days before Christmas, **Tony** informed me it's been over a year waiting for this surgery and she has lived on pain killers the whole time. The surgery is thought to be complexed with two surgeons working in shifts and expected to take 10 – 15 hours in theatre. **Debbs**, this could be the best present ever.

We wish them well.

Matters arising: The Airborne Engineers Association held their AGM & Gala Ball on Saturday 13th October 2018 at the King Charles Hotel, Brompton. This was hosted by the Chatham branch of the AEA. (Only three 299 members attended).

Key points: membership continues to be a problem with many new potential members been suckered into the REA (Ab), with only 8 new members for the AEA signed up this year.

The President **Lt Col (Retd) John Lee** has been re-elected to serve for another 2 years, thank you **John**.

Next year's AGM & Gala Ball is to be hosted by the Aldershot branch. To be held at The Mercure Whately Hall Hotel, Banbury, 17 – 19 Horse Fair, Banbury, OX16 0AN during the W/end 4 – 6 October 2019, details to be found in the December journal.

N/B: If interested, you will book your hotel rooms independently, directly with the hotel, there will be no forms to fill in.

Thanks was given to **Dave Pace & Pat Neal** for work done in creating the Web & Facebook sites.

The Presidents Commendations for service given to the AEA went to: **Ronnie Drummond, Scottish branch, Mart. Tindle, 299 Association and Tim Van der Krann, Chatham branch. Congratulations to them all.**

Presentations were handed out by **OC 9 Squadron Maj. J. Viney supported by RSM WO1 T. Walton.**

The National Chairman **John Ferry** gave his closing remarks by informing the meeting that he was stepping down from the Chair, as promised at Hull last year, after completing 7 years in the post, he needs to take time out for other interests in his life, but will always be an active member of the AEA. He therefore asks for any takers for the Chair to be considered? If so please contact **John** before the end of February 2019 for consideration at the next national meeting.

Baz Bassett thanked **John** on behalf of all members for his years of dedicated service.

The chosen charity for the raffle profits went to BLESMA.

N/B: a full script is available on demand.

Items from members: Dave Harvey has just returned from 5 weeks in China where he has competed in the Tai Chi Championships, he has battled through to the Grand final which takes place next week, therefore its back to China and we wish him well.

Dave is the first and only Westerner to ever get through to the Grand finale.

Last Post for the veterans from a forgotten war

This was a planned Remembrance Service which took place at 11:00hrs on Saturday 20th October at the Eden Camp, Malton, North Yorkshire.

A small group of men and women, mostly in their 90's came to attention for the final time as the standard of the Palestine Veterans Association (PVA) dips in commemoration for the 784 comrades from across the services who died trying to keep the peace between Arabs and Jews before Israel was created in 1948.

This was one of Britain's dirty wars, no fanfares or welcome home parties upon returning to 'Blighty' for these men who qualified for the GSM, with Clasp Palestine, but had to apply in writing for it, and it was sent through the post, never pinned on the chest.

One of the youngest recorded members of the PVA attending this parade was **Tony Costello** (89), who is a valued Associate member of 299 Association. At 18 he found himself doing his National Service with the Parachute Regiment (6th Div.) and was sent to Palestine during 1947, he had previously never been further than Blackpool. His Battalion lost one Sergeant, one Officer and two other ranks KIA.

Tony was ably supported for this final parade by 299 men including standard bearers **Tony Irwin & Arthur Stimpson** and he went on to say "it's a good time to stop, some of us need a chair on the parade ground these days, and as he's got older, he's began to think: what the hell were we doing in Palestine?"

N/B: Tony Costello originates from Liverpool and even after all his 89yrs on this earth, he's never lost that famous geographical and comical edge that comes naturally to someone fed too much 'scouse' as a child!

Simbo's bus Stop: two winners this month and as usual it goes to those who have: **Dave Meekin & Dave Harvey.**

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: to be held at the `Minerva` Nelson Street, Hull, on Friday 7th December 2018 at 20:00hrs.

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

Dates for your diary:

Mantra -- "Always a little further"

THE PILGRIM BANDITS CHARITY are intending to hold an evening's entertainment to take place at the Village Hotel, Hessle, Hull, on Friday 15th March 2019.

This will consist of a 3 course dinner with the after dinner guest speaker Rusty Fairman, 22 SAS blue team leader at the Iranian Embassy siege.

A full evening is planed including live music, dancing and fund raising activities, it will be a ticketed event at £45 p/p, hoping for big support from the mighty 299 boy's, our point of contact is Andy Green, Mb: 07967771561.

5 DAY WW1 BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2019

Dave Hines is proposing this tour for your consideration, he has out sourced the info using the tour company ACKLAM'S COACHES, and has produced a full flexible working itinerary.

Date of travel: 21st March 2019 for 5 days, 4 nights, staying in the Ypres Novotel using a 20 seat Elite Coach with toilet.

Cost £365 per person based on 2 sharing a twin room, to make this work 20 people are needed and will be taken on a first come first served basis, along with a £50 deposit as a token of intent.

For more info contact Dave Hines on Tel: 01482 860981, Mb: 07821698522.

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 11TH NOV. 2018, muster 10:00hrs 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 this association. A good turnout would be appreciated.

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, cls299@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01482 806690, Mb: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman: Bill Drayton, dorridrayton@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01482 376259,

Secretary: Gaz Coe, coeblimey240@gmail.com Tel: 01757 268188.

Treasurer: Martin Tindle, martinrontindle@hotmail.com Tel: 01482 653618, Mb: 07500264558.

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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

