



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: 2nd October 2015

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, J. Duffy, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, D. Harvey, D. Hines, S. Hoyle, A. Irwin, T. James, A. Kitching, C. Lickiss, J. Mace, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robinson, K. Russell, C. Shillito, P. Sims, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, T. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Woodward.

Apologies: B. Steele, P. Robson, D. Barker, L. Smith, P. Jefferson, C. Duggan, C. Wilcock, D. Woollas, M. Maddison, R. Able, J. Thompson, C. Ham, J. Cherry, G. Beaumont, Mike. Tindle.

Guests: Eileen Robinson.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman, **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened the meeting by delivering "The Exhortation"

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

Proposed by – **A. Kitching**.

Seconded by – **A. Irwin**.

Treasure's Report: **Martin** gave a full report on our financial situation and we were pleased to hear that our bank account is still healthy. It has been agreed with the Treasurer for him to collect the ticket monies for the Christmas "Bash" into the 299 account whilst we wait to hear of our full ticket allocation, this should become clear at the Lord Mayors charity appeal meeting taking place on the 6th October at the Guild Hall in Hull, attendees from 299 for this meeting are **Gadd, Shillito, Kitching** and **Coe**. There has to be a maximum number of people for this Christmas event for health & Safety reasons alone, therefore places will be on a first come first served basis, with money down, there may well be some disappointments as places are going like "Hot Cakes"

Martin went on to thank **Dave Hines** for the collecting of £50 to our "coffers" from his sale of photos & discs recording 299's past and present events. **Tony Costello** also received a mention for his contribution to the funds from his sale of the group photo in front of the Dakota at the Yorkshire Air Museum on the 6th September 2015. Both men were thanked by all the members at this meeting.

Correspondence: The Secretary, **Gary Coe** invited **Tony Costello** to brief the meeting with regards to his correspondence with **Ian Reed**, (Director of the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington), and **Dave Rutter**, AEA Journal editor regarding our recent visit and participation in the museum's Memorial Day events, which took place on the 6th September 2015. The whole event had being widely covered by the Yorkshire Post, also the Northern Regions of the BBC / ITV networks which produced much needed positive publicity for the museum and its future. **Tony** has produced an article, including a group photo for submission to the AEA December edition of the Journal and we thank him for his efforts. Photos were passed on to our archives.

Letter of thanks from Lal Nishant J CPT USARMY 302 ME BDE (US) and I quote:

Sir,
Just wanted to contact you and extend my appreciation for the time I was able to spend with the 299 Association in Arnhem. Truly shows that despite the distance across the pond, Soldiers and Veterans share a bond. Signed Nish.

The Secretary approached the members with regards to the proposed **association laptop, as voted in at the last meeting**, **he** gave his reasons for not supporting this proposal and asked for input from the floor with regards to both sides of the debate, after much debate it has been decided to leave things as they are, with the current Secretary OK with this decision.

Social Calendar: **Tony Kitching** has organised a Clay Pigeon shooting competition with the profits going to the Lord Mayor of Hull's Charity Appeal Fund. The venue for this event is:

THE BEVERLEY CTC (Clay Target Centre), (Director: Ian Patterson), Tel: 01964 551134.

BYGOTT WOOD, CHERRY BURTON, BEVERLEY, HU17 7RB.

Timings: 10.00hrs on Sunday 15th November 2015.

Costings: £15 for 25 Clays, including cartridges.

The day's event will on a competition basis, possibly split into two groups, experienced/non experienced with "**magnificent**" trophies for the winners! The Lord Mayor is hoping to be available for the presentation. Association members are willing to lend their guns and **Tom James** is sorting out a contingent from the Squadron to do the same, there is food available at this venue, also a couple of local pubs handy where you can forget any disappointments.

This venture was put before the membership for support with 22 out of the 32 members present going for it, therefore tell your friends & family and let's make this a good day out whilst raising money for the Lord Mayors charity.

Chairman's Comments: Acting Chairman **Chris Shillito** delivered an account of this associations Arnhem Pilgrimage which was enjoyed by 33 members and friends. Everyone seemed to enjoy this trip with the exception of our coach driver **Malcolm Tindle** who struggled with a temperamental gear box which cost him a night's sleep whilst in the repair shop, but never the less he delivered us safely to all our venues and for this we are truly grateful.

The Chairman reported on the Remembrance Service for the Cromwell Lock Disaster in which 36 association members plus a contingent of men from 299 Squadron under the control of the Squadron 2IC Major **J C Thompson** attended with Standard, the service was led by **The Revd. Stuart Turner CF** (Regimental Chaplain), 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment, and for the benefit of you who were not there here is the **NARRATIVE OF THE DISASTER** by Lt Col (Ret'd) **John Lee**;

"The ten men killed were from 300 Troop, 131 Independent Parachute Squadron of the Royal Engineers (Territorial Army) were on an 80-mile night navigation exercise on the River Trent, on the 28th September 1975. During a force six gale with the river in full flood, the assault boat that they were in was swept over the weir, (known locally as the "Devils Cauldron"). Of the eleven soldiers on board ten were drowned, and only one soldier was saved after clinging onto the assault boat for an hour.

It was the largest peace-time tragedy in the Squadrons history. The scene of this tragedy is marked by a granite memorial bearing the names of those young men who lost their lives that terrible night forty years ago"

Six 299 Association members attending this service were actual survivors of the same exercise, the Chairman thanked all members for supporting this event, but a special thanks has to go to our Standard Bearer **COLIN (WOODY) WOODWARD**, who performed his duties at both Arnhem and Cromwell Lock, and without him we would be at a loss. Thanks must also go to the following men who stood on with extra transport, as and when needed: **Bri Bilton, Dave Hines and Craig Gadd.**



Courtesy of C. Shillito

THE 299 ASSOCIATION GROUP 20TH Sept. 2015 AT OOSTERBEEK WAR CEMETERY

Missing: Colin Woodward engaged in Standard Bearing duties elsewhere

Matters arising: Some members have requested we look at other hotels for the Arnhem trip next year, perhaps a little more central towards the middle of the City, inevitable these are likely to be more expensive but we will ask Bikleliner to give us some options.

A substantial group of you would like to consider a trip to Normandy, (Pegasus Bridge), as an extra or alternative trip and again we will do some homework on your behalf.

Johnny Mace: passed on apologies on behalf of **Graham Beaumont, (Beau)**, who is still struggling with health issues although much improved he is still having his bad days, we wish him well.

Thanks to Paul Sims, (Simbo), for taking care of the "Bus Stops" this helps pay our monthly postage costs, this month's winner is:

Terry Cunningham.

THE CHAIRMAN THEN CLOSED THE MEETING

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: to be held at the "Minerva" on Corporation Pier, at 20.00Hrs on Friday 6th November 2015.

Dates for your diary:

The AEA Reunion / AGM 16th – 19th October at Coventry. (For more details see the Sec.)

On Saturday 17th October the Palestine veterans Association

Will honour the memories of the 45 members of the Royal Engineers and the 52 members of the Parachute Regiment who lost their lives during the period 1945-1948. At Eden Camp. The Service is at 12.30hrs and Standards will be paraded.

The Lord Mayor's charity appeal team are holding a CABARET NIGHT, (expect a packed house)

The venue is The Willows Club on Holderness Road, Hull, on Wednesday 21st October, kick off around 20.-00hrs. Tickets @ £4 p/p, including 8 artists, bingo, raffle, etc. Always a good night.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2015, timings at the next meeting.

Clay Pigeon shooting competition at Bygott Wood, Cherry Burton, Beverley on Sunday 15th November 2015.

Christmas Party with a difference: Friday 11th December 2015 in the banqueting rooms, Guild Hall, Hull.

