



299 ASSOCIATION

Charity No: 1009201

September Meeting

Date: 29th August 2014, apologies for having to bring the September meeting forward, this was due to venue availability. With September being a busy month for this association, we could not move it back.

Members Present: N. Arksey, M. Beardshaw, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, G. Crum, W. Drayton, S. Hoyle, A. Irwin, C. Likiss, J. Mace, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, K. Russell, C. Shillito, P. Sims, D. Skoyles, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Woodward.

Apologies: C. Gadd, J. Duffy, T. Cunningham, C. Duggan, J. Harrison, C. Henrickson, A. Kitching, M. Maddison, K. Saddington, J. Thompson, P. Robinson, R. Franklin, J. Brooks.

Guests: B. Young.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The chairman welcomed all present then opened the meeting with the sad news that Ray Franklin has lost his daughter, Mavis, we knew she had been struggling with health issues for some considerable time now but we had all hoped her last lot of treatment would do the trick, unfortunately this was not to be, and we offer Ray our sincere condolences.

Welcome to a first timer; Charlie Likiss, served with 299 from the late 50s in to the early 60s.

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

Proposed by – F. Pougher

Seconded by – A. Irwin

Treasure's Report: All monies for the Arnhem pilgrimage are now paid up and our funds have benefited by keeping this trip down to one bus and one driver. The room allocations for the hotel are now available, contact the secretary on Tel: 01757 268188.

Correspondence: AEA BIRMINGHAM BRANCH BENCH

This bench was commissioned by the above to commemorate previous Arnhem veterans and former members of the Birmingham branch and I have received a letter from John Lee, AEA President, informing this association that the bench is now complete. The bench is to be dedicated on **Thursday 18th September at 1600hrs on Oosterbeek Cemetery car park**. Our friends from Birmingham have welcomed 299 to attend this dedication if at all possible; obviously this invite is directed at the people travelling on the earlier sailing, (16/9/2014). I have sent a letter of thanks to Kevin Lambeth, Chairman of the AEA Birmingham. Our Chairman Bill Drayton will be a part of this early group, therefore those who wish to attend please arrange through him.

FREEDON OF HARROW PARADE from Olaf Dudley

The above parade will be taking place on **Saturday 20th September 2014**, ex members of 131 Commando RE have been invited to take part along with the serving members. The social event afterwards will allow the re-newel of many an old friendship. Olaf has been informed that most ex 131 members will be at the Arnhem pilgrimage, but for those who are not, and interested please contact the following: 4735dudley@armymail.mod.uk

Free accommodation and car parking is available at the Kingsbury barracks over the two nights, (Fri/Sat), all booking details must be in by **6th September**, if attending, a letter of thanks has be sent.

Olaf sends his regards to all his old mates and asks to be remembered to them, also, out of interest, for those who wish to keep up to date with the Squadron try: www.facebook.com/131cdo a short film of their latest camp in the USA can be found on the following: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhfoHTvSE7s>

OUR COMRADES ASHES, Cpt. J Thompson

The handing over of the ashes of Colin Bowden and Bill Dick by their respective relatives, to the men of 299 Squadron, who in turn have been charged with their release over Ginkel Heath, Ede, Holland, by parachute on **Saturday 20th September 2014**. This handing over will take place at the **Middleton Barracks, Calvert Lane, Hull, at 20.00hrs, in the troop bar on Tuesday 9th September 2014**.

This act is of **SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE** to all concerned, family and friends alike, the committee is asking for a maximum effort in supporting, what will be one of the last things we can do for our old pals Bill & Col, in our remembrance of them, therefore please try and find an hour on the 9th.

This association has to thank the following people for their part in making all this possible: the Squadron OC & Troop Commander also Cpt. J. Thompson and the men of 299 Squadron RE.

The Hull Daily Mail has been invited and there may well be the need for photos, therefore if we dress smart/casual with Sqn ties & berets if possible as a mark of respect, but your attendance is far more important than any form of dress. **Thank you.**

ARNHEM 70TH COMMEMORATION AT WOODHALL SPA on the 6th September 2014

Men from this association will be taking part in this annual event in response to a direct invitation. We have decided to use our own vehicles and share the fuel costs. This will be a full day including an early start. Anybody else interested in taking part in this event please contact the committee for travel details and allocation.

Chairman's Comments: Bill Drayton gave the meeting a run down on the day's events surrounding the internment of the MV 'Norland' Bell and Battle honours into Holy Trinity, the Parish Church of Hull. He went on to thank the nineteen 299 men, (red & Green), for turning out on a day in which the weather could have been better, this was a good effort and very much appreciated, he reserved a special thanks to Colin Woodward our standard bearer, also Tony Costello as official photographer who supplied Dave Rutter, editor of the AEA journal, with not only photo's but a concise script of the whole story leading up to, and including this service of internment. (See below).



Courtesy of A. Costello

Some 299 men on parade outside Holy Trinity

MV 'NORLAND' FALKLANDS 1982

Keith Thompson former Assistant Purser of the MV 'Norland' together with Pete McWatt, both veterans of the Falklands War, relocated the Ship's Bell and the Battle Honours Board from the P&O Ferry 'Pride of Hull' and mounted a campaign to have these two revered souvenirs given a permanent place of honour in the ship's home port of Kingston upon Hull. The results of their efforts met with a full and well deserved reward when, on Sunday 10th of August 2014, both items were received into the safe keeping of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Kingston upon Hull before a congregation of members of the South Atlantic Medal Association, former crew members and veterans of 2 Para together with the standards and veterans of numerous other campaigns, including Operation Market Garden, Arnhem.

The Regimental Band of the Parachute Regiment played a prominent and much appreciated part in the proceedings, providing music within the Church and leading the March Past where the salute was taken by Cllr. Mary Glew, Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull and admiral of the Humber.

Tony Costello
13th August 2014.

Soldier honoured to unveil medals

Amputee chosen to reveal prizes for Invictus Games

InShort

Amputee soldier Craig Gadd was picked to unveil medals that will be given to the 400 participants of next month's Invictus Games.

by Kevin Shoesmith

k.shoesmith@hulldailymail.co.uk

A SOLDIER from north Hull who was wounded in Afghanistan has unveiled specially designed medals for Prince Harry's Invictus Games.

The collection of medals, which will be given to the 400 participants of the Paralympic-style competition next month, were revealed at Garrard – the world's oldest jewelers in London – on Thursday.

Father-of-two Craig Gadd, 41, who lost his left leg in a Taliban bomb blast in October 2010, revealed the gold, silver and bronze medals and medallions.

He said: "It was a real honour to have been asked to do this.

"The Invictus Games are a great idea, because most military guys tend to have that natural competitive streak in them.

"And, of course, the fitter you are, the easier it is to move around, especially when you have got a prosthetic."

Craig, who lives with partner Dolly Dalton, 45, and their daughter Daisy, three, in Beverley Road, has put his name forward to compete in basketball, cycling and volleyball at the Games, which will take place across four days in London.

It is giving Craig something to strive towards.

"For many of the guys, it's a big thing," he said. "Once you've served your country



GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY: From left, Garrard CEO Eric Deardorff, Sergeant Craig Gadd and chairman of the Invictus Games Sir Keith Mills at the unveiling of the medals.

and you've been discharged, to be back into the fold again and to be part of the team, for some of the guys, it's a massive turning point in their lives to be part of something and be part of a team again."

On Monday, Craig expects to be discharged from the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court, in Surrey, where he has undergone four years of treatment.

Next month, he will be med-

ically discharged from the Army Reserve, formerly known as the Territorial Army.

"After the Games, I will be taking a bit of time out to spend time with the family," said Craig.

"I'll then have to work out what I am going to do with the rest of my 20 years of working life."

Launched by Prince Harry earlier this year, the Invictus Games will use the power of sport to inspire recovery,

support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect of those who serve their country.

Craig, a sergeant in 299 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers, was also reunited with Prince Harry, an Apache helicopter pilot who has also seen action in Afghanistan, at the medal unveiling.

"I met him not long after I was injured," said Craig. "He didn't remember me, but he has met a lot of injured blokes over the years, so I didn't really expect him to."

Each medallion and medal will feature an embossed stitched pattern in homage to the recovery and rehabilitation of the soldiers and a quote from William Ernest Henley's Invictus poem declaring: "I am the master of my fate."

It will also feature the games's I AM logo.

Follow Kevin on Twitter
@hdm_shoesmith

'Celebrating amazing men and women'

INSPIRED by the US Warrior Games, the Invictus Games will feature sports including archery, wheelchair basketball, powerlifting, indoor rowing, wheelchair rugby, swimming and sitting volleyball.

Sir Keith Mills, chairman of the Invictus Games, said the medals met with Prince Harry's approval. He said: "They are befitting of a truly inspirational occasion that will celebrate the Invictus spirit of

these amazing men and women."

The Invictus Games will involve 400 athletes from 14 nations and will take place in London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, from September 10 to 14.

We all congratulate Craig in being selected for this honour and wish him well in his events. For those of you who can, here are a couple of links you may find of interest;

<http://forces.tv/68586552>

<http://www.itv.com/news/2014-08-07/medals-unveiled-for-prince-harrys-invictus-games/>

Matters arising: This association again has to thank Colin Woodward, our Standard Bearer for carrying at the Veterans W/end in East Park, Hull. He also carried at the centenary commemoration service for the outbreak of the Great War on 3rd August 2014 at Holy Trinity, Hull; he was supported in this by Tony Irwin & Syd Hoyle hence providing a 299 presence. The association thanks all the men who, this month have put themselves forward as representatives for this association.

THE RANSOM'S ARMY SHIRTS: A big thank you to Paul Sims, (Simbo), for sorting out the planning and printing of these shirts in time for Arnhem, well done.
It was agreed by the members that the cost of these shirts would be £10 pound each with a small profit from each sale going into our funds.
Anybody else wanting a shirt must contact; Tel: 01482 806690, ASAP, extras can be obtained if ordered quickly.

THE ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE: these are the final details for those attending this event.

The first group will be picked up by coach at the Ship Inn, Dunswell at 18.00hrs on the 16th September.

The second group will make their own way to: Terminal 1 on King George Dock, Hedon Road, Hull, on the 18th September. This group is a block booking therefore everybody must be at the Terminal by 18.30hrs at the latest to allow time for check in. The car parking facilities at the port are £7 per night. Anybody wishing to leave their cars at the coach depot in Newport can get a ride to the port via a mini bus which will leave this depot at 16.30hrs.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET YOUR PASSPORTS

299 WEB-SITE: Craig Gadd has shown an interest in managing this site and although absent from this meeting because of his commitment in Prince Harry's Invictus games, he assures me he would like to be considered, his request was put before this meeting which met with an unanimous vote for Craig to full fill this role. We therefore thank Craig for stepping into this vacant position which was deemed to be an absolute necessity by a majority of our members.

WREATHS

Two wreaths have been commissioned, one for the Engineers Memorial at Driel, Holland and the other for the Cenotaph, Hull on Remembrance Sunday, these have been paid for, and it was unanimously decided by the members to give a donation towards The British Legion's poppy appeal which was included within our fee.

BUS STOP

"Simbo" took a bus stop round to help with our funds, the winner was Keith "Robbie" "those who have"

Items from members:

Our Arnhem Veteran Les Ransom has being sent an official invitation to attend a reception at The Hartenstein Hotel, Oosterbeek on the 20th September; this has been issued through the Dutch Government, "could he be mixing with royalty" We are all very proud of our Les and hope the Dutch are going to shower him with compliments and maybe more. Les thinks he's only been invited because they've finally found the tin hat that he'd lost in 1944.

Next Meeting: Friday 3rd October 2014, 20.00hrs at the Minerva, Cooperation Pier, Hull.

Dates for your diary:

Arnhem 70th Commemoration at Woodhall Spa: 6th September 2014, (full day)

Forces Memorial Day: Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, Nr. York.
Sunday 7th September 2014.

All Services Parade and Commemorative Service at Edan Camp on Sunday 7th September 2014.
The biggest event and largest gathering of service veterans in the North of England.

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2014

The 6 day option 16/9/2014 – 22/9/2014

The 4 day option 18/9/2014 – 22/9/2014

Palestine Veterans Association Reunion and Service on Saturday 18th October 2014 at Edan Camp.
This is a annual reunion and service for the British forces and Palestine Police who served in Palestine between 1923 and 1948.

Remembrance Sunday: 9th November 2014

