



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: Friday 2nd September 2016.

Members Present: N. Arksey, M. Beardshaw, K. Blacker, J. Cherry, G. Coe, A. Costello, W. Drayton, A. Foster, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, M. Hall, C. Ham, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, C. Lickiss, J. Mace, M. Maddison, D. Meeking, J. Palmer, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, P. Robson, P. Sims, L. Smith, B. Steele, A. Stimpson, R. Swatman, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, D. Woollas.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, C. Shillito, G. Beaumont, T. Walker, T. Cunningham, N. Cooper, C. Henrickson, J. Duffy, D. Barker, D. Hines, K. Russell, D. French, D. Harvey, A. Green, C. Wilcock.

Guests: Mal. Tindle, B. Young.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Vice Chairman **Bill Drayton** welcomed all present then opened this well-attended meeting by again thanking Johnno Palmer for the use of his Public House, The Ship Inn Dunswell, he also thanked him for the magnificent buffet supplied "free gratis" and then commented, is it the food that's bringing them in?

Bill, not wishing to appear bias, went on to congratulate "the pride of Hull" for that magnificent battle for the Challenge Cup last week end, no prisoners taken at the Wembley Stadium! Only cream rises to the top.

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

Proposed by – **A. Irwin.**

Seconded by – **A. Costello.**

Treasure's Report:

Martin Tindle (Treasurer) was pleased to reveal confirmation and amount due to this association from the Lord Mayor of Hull's Civic office. A formal cheque presentation is to be arranged at the Guild Hall, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull in the not too distant future. Final monies due for the Arnhem Trip must be squared up immediately. He gave a full account on our financial status which continues to remain healthy.

Correspondence:

Letter from **Fred Gray**, author of Airborne Engineers and ex 299 man, he sends his best wishes to all the lads at 299, he also apologises for not attending a meeting for a while, he is having to juggle his Hull visits around the many hospital appointments he is having to attend, we wish him well.

Social Calendar:

Do Not Forget “Tommo’s” Leaving Do! See dates for your dairy.

“ “ “**AEA/Reunion & AGM**” “ “ “

Chairman’s Comments:

Arnhem Pilgrimage

Malcolm Tindle: has prepared a proposed itinerary for the above on behalf of “Bikeliner” our tour company, for those who can, copies via internet, printed copies sent with printed minutes.

Thursday 15th September 2016 at 16.45hrs. The coach will leave Wallingfen Business Park, Main Road, Newport HU15 2RH. Anyone wishing to leave their cars at Bikeliner’s premises should arrive at Newport by 16.30hrs in time for the coach to leave at 16.45hrs. Parking is a locked compound and free but naturally this facility is entirely at owner’s risk.

18.00hrs. Pick up outside The Ship Inn, Dunswell.

18.30hrs. Pick up at the Riverside Terminal, King George Dock, Hull. HU9 5PS. Parking at the port is available but is at your own expense and arrangements.

See itinerary

Monday 19th September 2016 08.00hrs. We will disembark the ferry around 08.00hrs. We will leave the ferry on foot and re-join the coach outside the main building. The coach will then return to Newport for about 10.00hrs, via Dunswell, around 09.15hrs.

If you intend to leave any luggage on the coach during either sailings, please clearly label it with your own name.

There are 33 people on this trip and luggage space on the coach is limited, therefore please remember this when packing otherwise it may be on your knees during the journeys.

Do not forget: you’re Passports, sufficient Euros and your E1.11 NHS card. All times stated are local times.

The ships Bars etc. accept both Euros and GBP.

INSURANCE:

Just to remind everybody that travel insurance is your own responsibility, you must treat this Pilgrimage as you would when booking your own holiday.

N/B: Yet again the subject of **AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION BLANKET INSURANCE COVER** has been raised at this meeting with some members still believing the said insurance is currently in place, and it saddens me. Men signing up for membership to the AEA between 2009 – 2014 were led to believe that full membership to this association gave them automatic insurance cover whilst taking part in all association activities, unfortunately this proved not to be so, **and no such insurance had ever existed, how could it?** (Letter from the AEA President in 2014), The association administration during this period has to take full responsibility for this predicament and its legacy seems to linger on for ever. I could only hazard a guess at their reasons in doing this. The current administration can only sympathize with the men who have been deceived and offer nothing more to ease their disappointment, all this happened in the past and is finished with, its water under the bridge, this appears to be another act of dishonesty targeted against fellow association men during that period in time, if you need to know the reasons for **“why”** this happened, better to ask the previous admin for yourselves, many members would like to know.

It is this associations wish that everybody attending this year's Arnhem Pilgrimage get what they want from it, and also enjoy the experience, this year is a big group, remember that at all times you are amongst friends and nothing is too much trouble. Mally Tindle's proposed itinerary is only a guide, we are all responsible adults and are free to do our own thing, nothing is compulsory.

Matters arising:

2 Para are holding an extraordinary function at Merile Barracks, Colchester on the 8th September and would like to invite as many Arnhem veterans as they can, our own **Les Ransom** has been invited and will be accompanied by Palestine veteran **Tony Costello**, the proceedings will be spread over two days including travel, with all travel and accommodation expenses paid by 2 Para. This is almost unbelievable, of course **L/Cpl L. Ransom, 250 Company R.A.S.C. 3 Platoon** was attached to the 2nd Battalion upon taking and holding the North end of that bridge in Arnhem during September 1944, he fought alongside these men until the position was over run, and he along with others were taken POW's. Enjoy the experience chaps, and we look forward to hearing all about it when you get back.

Any other business:

Paul Sims (Simbo) opened up a discussion on future social evenings and seems to have all the contacts, one or two remarked on another "Gentleman's" evening, all great suggestions and they were reminded that to make these things happen membership support has to be drummed up, and people have to be prepared to get stuck in, this association belongs to us all, therefore if you want something to happen take it up and run with it, I'm sure the support will follow and the committee will back you to the hilt. Proposing is the easy bit.

Mike (Maddy) Maddison kicked-off a debate about the association tie which then turned into a verbal punch up between those who may prefer a dicky bow as well as, against those just wanting a standard tie, this matter has still to be resolved.

Simbo's bus stop: tonight's winner Glenn Ratten, "to those who have"

Items from members:

We are losing the C130 Hercules

Its replacement is to be the **Airbus A400M Atlas** and is officially defined as an aircraft to provide tactical and strategic mobility to all three services.

The required capabilities include: operations from airfields and semi-prepared rough landing areas in extreme climates and all weather conditions by day and night; carrying a variety of equipment including vehicles and troops over extended ranges; air dropping paratroops and equipment; and being unloaded with the minimum of ground handling equipment.

It is manufactured by Airbus Defence & Space Consortium and possesses major advances on the C130, capable of flying twice as fast, twice as far and with twice the payload capacity, **all this can be summed up by saying that it can transport what the C130 cannot, to places that the C17 can't.**

It can be rapidly converted into a tactical in-flight refuelling tanker role, and a refuelling system can be installed within two hours.

70 Squadron RAF, (LXX Squadron), Motto: Usquam - 'Anywhere' (Transport Command out of Brize Norton), had been stood up, and has the honour to be the first operational unit to employ the A400M Atlas in the Squadrons centenary year. Earlier this year there has been much take-off and landing trials on a softly prepared runway at Woodbridge, Suffolk, using the Atlas A400M packed with instrumentation, this landing strip was constructed by the engineers of 23 Para. Including 299 men.

During September 2015 the Squadron began air transport tasking with its small cadre of trained aircrew. The number of aircraft and aircrew continue to grow at a steady pace, with a full inventory of 22 aircraft due to be delivered by 2019.

Just as a point of interest 70 Squadron RAF have not always been a part of Transport Command, during WW2 they were a front line Bomber Squadron flying Wellingtons. This 70 Squadron crew, (photo), completed a full tour of operations, plus some, (37 bombing raids), with the Squadron and this photo was taken on the 25th June 1942, the night of the 3rd and final 1000 Bomber raid over Germany, target: **Bremen**, a rookie crew about to commence on its first mission prior to joining 70 Squadron based in North Africa.

RAF Morten – in – Marsh, 21. O.T.U. Gloucestershire.

WELLINGTON IC. No: DV. 811



Crew L- R	Bob Brown	Eddie Coe	Alan Wilch	Bob Parish	Unknown	Jack Wolf
(All Sergeants)	Rear Gunner Newcastle	Wop/AG Hull	Pilot Norwich	Navigator Kendal	2nd Pilot ?	Front Gunner Weymouth

N/B: 2nd Pilot was not always available for most crews, the standard crew number was usually 5.

With no other business to be discussed the Vice Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all for their contributions and best wishes, it was at this time last year things were not looking too good for Bill Drayton and here he is, one year later chairing the meeting, well done Bill, great job.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: to be held at 20.00hrs on the 7th October 2016 at the Minerva on Corporation Pier, Hull.

Dates for your diary:

Capt. John Thompson's leaving "do" at the Middleton Barracks, Saturday 10th September 2016, tickets £10p/p from S/Sgt Carl Ham on Tel: 07926276002.

Arnhem Pilgrimage: 15th – 19th September 2016. Details as stated in the Itinerary.

Palestine Veterans Association: a Parade, (12 noon) and Service of Remembrance is to be held at Eden Camp, Malton on Saturday 15th October, The gates open at 10.00hrs and Standards will be paraded. For more details contact Tony Costello on Tel: 01482 632100. We are few in number and need the support, ALL WELCOME.

AEA Reunion/AGM 2016: The Royal Court Hotel, Keresley, Coventry. Friday 14th – Monday 17th October.
All booking forms should be in by now!

Remembrance Sunday: 13th November 2016.

