



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 1st September 2017. At the Ship Inn, Dunswell.

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton, K. Blacker, J. Cherry, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, R. Franklin, C. Gadd, C. Ham, D. Hines, A. Irwin, D. Jefferson, J. Mace, M. Maddison, D. Meekin, J. Palmer, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Russell, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, L. Smith, B. Steele, A. Stimson, J. Thompson J. C. Thompson, Mart Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, P. Sims, A. Costello, A. Lee, D. Ideson, G. Newton, K. Saddington, D. French, J. Brooks. J. Duffy, D. Harvey, S. Hoyle, D. Woollas, M. Holdsworth, C. Lickiss, D. Skoyles, C. Wilcock, O. A. Nelson-Girchen.

Guests: Benny Bridges, Ben Frazer, Pauline Meekin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present to a very well attended meeting (34), then opened the meeting by thanking the Ship Inn's landlord **Jonno Palmer** for the use of his Inn, **Jonno** informed the meeting of the death of his father that very afternoon and the 299 Association offered it's deepest sympathy to him and the rest of the family.

Chris reserved a special welcome for our guests: **Pauline, Dave's wife, Ben a serving soldier of a special kind.! And that long-time friend of 'Macey's' & 299, Benny Bridges, ex Hull City Footballer, Aden vet. And good all round sort of guy.**

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

Proposed by – **G. Ratten.**

Seconded by – **W. Drayton.**

Treasure's Report: **Martin** informed the meeting that the Arnhem Pilgrimage carrier is fully paid up, and the remaining associations bank balance is sound, a private donation of £20 was handed over to our funds from that long time, never to be forgotten 299 friend to all, **Chuck (Tug) Wilky**, who never misses a Funeral or a Remembrance Sunday and treasures' the memories of his lifelong friends from 299, he thanks the association for keeping him in the loop.

Correspondence:

Message board: **Kevin Saddington** on 15/8/2017. Email < kevinsaddington@hotmail.com >

Fellas, I am walking the Monte Rosa Trail in Switzerland starting September the 1st. It's a seven day walk, unsupported, (all kit on my back). I am raising money for **McMillian Cancer Support**, so if anyone wishes to donate, please go to the link below and feel free to feel good about yourself supporting one of the UK's most worthy causes. I will endeavour to update everyone along the way but not expecting a signal up there, so it's as and when possible.

So click the link; what you waiting for? <http://www.justgiving.com/owner-email/please...>

Message board: **Chris Shillito** on 17/8/2017

On Tuesday the 15th August nearly thirty 299 Association members attended the funeral of a well-respected 299 man **Fred Rands**, we gave him a good send off, so well done everyone.

Message board: **Evelyn Rands** on 18/8/2017.

To 299 Association,

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to say a very big thank you to all members of 299 who attended **Fred's** Funeral on Tuesday.

We were overwhelmed by the numbers of soldiers who came to pay their respects and I know that **Fred** would have been very proud and honoured.

It was lovely to meet and talk to everyone, especially to those who knew **Fred** personally.

299 participation meant a great deal to my family, as I know it would to **Fred**, and made a difficult time extra special.

Thank you to everyone once again. **Eve Rands & family**.

Message board: Dean Ideson, 22/8/2017

URGENT REQUEST, PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.

Lads – I'm currently in Majorca (back Sat) just had some very sad news about a good friend who worked for the police & attended Remembrance Day every year. **Mally Roberts** 51 yrs.', ex-RM (WO1), please see text below from colleague. I personally would appreciate it if you could assist.

"**Dean - Mally** died from a thrombosis, very sudden and unexpected. His ex-wife **Ros** and his son's would like a military funeral with Standard bearers, etc. He served 30 yrs.' Can you assist with her request, the Funeral is at the Haltemprice Crematorium on Monday 4th September at 12.30hrs, This is my appeal for volunteers from the 299 Association.

Social calendar: Arnhem Pilgrimage, proposed itinerary at the end of these minutes.

N/B: Dave (Dazel) Skoyles is having to give late backword on the Arnhem trip, needs urgent surgery and it clashes with the dates, because his operation date has been moved, therefore if there is anybody out there wishing to take his place? Contact **Dazel** on Tel: 01482 801355, I will need passport numbers, first name & DOB from any replacement, `pronto` please, without these you will not get on the ferry. **Total cost of the trip £290.**

Sqn news: **Capt. J.C. Thompson** former 2IC 299 Squadron gave a brief report on its current status, he has stood down as Sqn 2IC and has taken over the CO 1Troop (Hull) and is also acting PSI. The Squadron is currently on block leave and is doing well on recruitment, although the numbers are slightly down in 1 Troop, the Sqn is in a state of flux at the moment and a bit on the quite side. Kenya is off, but Belize with 9 Sqn is a possibility now in the planning stage, 299 men are on operation `Trenton` in the Sudan, this is the building of a full field hospital which is desperately needed in this part of the world. Exercise `Swift Response` is now being planned, this will be combined ops with French, German and USA troops.

Chairman's comments: **Chris Shillito** invited **Craig Gadd** to make an appeal for members to take part in the AEA dinner on the 21st October 2017. The hotel are asking for final numbers, but there is time enough to book your place, but please don't leave until the last minute. 299 Association is hosting the event this year and your support is needed, the cost is £26 p/p cheque to '299 Association' or cash to **Chris** and he will fill the forms in for you, many of you are AEA members and the opportunity to take part in this may not come to Hull for many a year.

Chris informed the meeting of an invite to certain members of 299 Association through **Capt. O.S. Dudley**, 131 Commando Royal Engineers, to attend a 'Dinner night at Sheldon' to represent 299 as a guest of the CO. Invites have gone out to **Steve & Bunny Brown, Mike Holdsworth, Paddy Denning & Zoom Cloonan**, this is an attempt to bring together both old & new 131 men.

Time waits for 'no-man' and as age creeps on, bringing with it the inevitable, we have to contemplate the future for the associations, as **Bunny Brown** once stated "none of us are here for ever"

Matters arising:

ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

50th Anniversary Commemoration Parade & Service at York Minster on Wednesday 29th November 2017.

On the 29th November 1967 the British Government ordered the withdrawal of all British Military from the Aden Protectorate and therefore bringing to an end the long running "forgotten conflict" with insurgents. There were over 350 fatal military and civilian casualties during the British occupation, most remain in the British Military Cemeteries in Aden. In addition there were hundreds who received various levels of severe injuries due to bombings and shootings.

The Aden Veterans Association is to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of this withdrawal with a Drumhead Service in York Minster at 14:00hrs on Wednesday 29th November 2017, to remember and pay tribute to those who were left behind and those who still bear the scars of their injuries. It is very much hoped that as many members, along with their immediate families, will attend this prestigious event. The event is 'ticket only', which are free to members and obtainable from the National Secretary. Email: vicechair@adenveterans.org.uk Tel: 01526 322697.

Before the Drumhead Service there will be a parade of Aden Veterans, with the National & Branch Standards, behind the full Pipe Band of **70 Squadron's Air Training Corps**, led by the Association National Piper **Andy Paton**. The Service will be conducted by the Dean of York Minster and **Rev Canon Dr Simon Cox**, the Association's National Chaplain.

N/B: 70 Squadron RAF, Transport Command, is the first RAF Squadron to be supplied with the A400 M Atlas which will eventually replace the C130 Hercules for all future Airborne Operations. The Squadron must have a strong youth policy to provide a fully trained pipe band for an event of this standing..!

For further information on this topic contact: **Tony Irwin (Archivist)**, on Tel: 01482 793847, Mb: 07930015184.

York has a brilliant Park & ride scheme, no matter which direction you come from, this would be your best option, because parking in York is both difficult and expensive.

Items from members:

Bud Oldfield sent a brief, but concise welfare report on our members in Doncaster, showing much concern about the problems faced by **Nev Smales**. He is still facing the same issues as last month's report, the problems started with investigations into the removal of gall stones, the medics have damaged his alimentary canal whilst viewing with an endoscope, and he now has leakage into his abdomen creating all sorts of problems which will require extensive surgery in correcting, and this is before they tackle the gall stones removal. He is in constant pain and its now being going on for months, he is ready for throwing the towel in, and that's not **Nev**. We passed a card around the meeting for his old pals to sign, let's hope the matter can be resolved quickly.

Big John Davis is still in there fighting this aging process, and **Bud** pops around on a regular basis to keep him on track. **Bud** is down to one stick now after his hip replacement, but the knees have taken a hammering over the last few months with all the extra work they've had to do.

Terry Cunningham delivered news just in, that **Nev** has just had corrective surgery and the medics are hopeful in solving his immediate problems, its fingers x time.

Mike Maddison wished to thank the association and its members personally for their support in his recent fund raising event.

Olly Girchen could not make it tonight just had surgery on his knee.

Simbo's `bus stop` this week's winner is Mick (Maddy) Maddison.

Webb site address: www.299association.com

Next meeting: Friday 6th October at 20:00hrs in the `Minerva` on Corporation Pier, Hull.

Dates for your diary:

Allied Air Force Memorial Day, Service & Parade on the 3rd Sept, and arrangements in place.

Arnhem Pilgrimage, see proposed itinerary at the end of these minutes.

The AEA Reunion/AGM to be held at THE BRITANNIA ROYAL HOTEL, FERENSWAY, HULL, HU1 3UF, over the weekend Friday the 20th to Monday the 23rd October 2017, a room has been booked for the AGM.

Very important: rooms at this hotel could be at a premium over this weekend, therefore book early to avoid disappointment. Remember it's the year of culture in Hull and they will not hang on to rooms on a promise..

There are other hotels close by, but if you want a guaranteed room at this hotel you can reserve with your card without money being taken out of your account. Booking slips are available.

Hotel Tel: 01482 325087, e-mail: enquires@hotels-hull.co.uk

Remembrance Sunday: 12th November 2017.

50th Anniversary Commemoration Parade and Service, York Minster on Wed 29th November 2017.

With nothing more to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting thanking all for attending.

PROPOSED ITINERARY. ARNHEM, SEPTEMBER 2017.

THURSDAY 14TH September 2017

16.00 – 16.15 the coach will pick up outside the Ship Inn, Dunswell for those of you parking here over the week end.

17.00 – No later please, rendezvous with the coach at the **NEW** Riverside Terminal on **King George Dock**, Hull. HU9 5PS to check in for the **18.00hrs** overnight sailing to Zeebrugge. Do not go to the old Terminal lads..! You may be mistaken for an asylum seeker.

Passports will be needed at this point as we then board the coach just as far as the rear of the building where you will then exit the coach and board the ship on foot, you will be given your cabin key whilst on the coach. For those members intending to park their cars at the dock, it's recommended that you try and park close to the **NEW RIVERSIDE TERMINAL**, all coaches move off from this point whether for Zeebrugge or Rotterdam and we will come back through the same Terminal, keeping the cars handy sounds good.

N/B: You are recommended to have a small overnight bag for the sailing to Zeebrugge. Other luggage may be left on the coach during the crossing but you will not be able to access this once you have boarded the vessel, my luggage consists of a tooth brush in my pocket..! But it's up to you.

FRIDAY 15th September 2017

About 08.00, local time, (which is 1 hour ahead of UK time), we dock at Zeebrugge, we will disembark on foot and the coach will meet us outside the main building for the trip to Arnhem. We usually take a short drive on to Oosterbeek for a welcome back drink, because we cannot check into our hotel until after 15.00 hrs, but where we stop is up to you people..!

HOTEL: The Fletcher Hotel / Restaurant, Kabeljauwalle 35, 6865BL. Doorwerth, Holland. Tel; +31 (0)31 73 19 010

N/B: A 3 course dinner is included, (paid for), at the hotel for this evening, and will be served at around 19.30 hrs.

SATURDAY 16th September 2017.

08.00 Breakfast

09.15 In order to reach the DZ in good time, we will have to leave the hotel at this time to travel to Ginkel Heath, Ede. The coach will drop us off near the pub, (Juffrouw Tok), **THE BIG COCKREL BAR**, before parking a short distance away.

13.00 We leave Ginkel Heath for the hotel, for a quick change, berets, blazers, decorations etc. Please lads if you have them, wear them. This is for the service at the Engineers Monument at Driel crossroads, not to be missed if a first timer. **Charlie McColgan** and his ex 9 Sqn rough riders will be here in big numbers, they never miss this.

16.00 Commemorative Service and wreath laying at the Driel Monument.

17.00 Leave Driel and travel to Oosterbeek via Arnhem, anyone wishing to be dropped off may do so, remember you are feeding yourselves this evening..!

SUNDAY 17th September 2017.

08.00 Breakfast, we will be leaving the hotel at 09.00hrs in order to secure a good parking space near the main gates at the Oosterbeek Cemetery, luggage should be loaded onto the coach any time after 08.30hrs, in time for us to leave at 09.00hrs. Remember we will not be coming back to the hotel.

11.00 Service of Remembrance in Oosterbeek Cemetery.

Around 13.00, or after the service when everyone is ready, we will depart Oosterbeek and travel through to Gorinchem where we may well enjoy a couple of hours de-briefing after the weekend.

Around 16.00, we will leave Gorinchem and head for Europort for the evening sailing back to Hull, keep Passports handy they will be needed when you pick up your cabin key. Again a small overnight bag, (tooth brush), recommended for the cabin.

MONDAY 18th September 2017.

08.00 Disembark the ferry on foot and re-join the coach outside the main building for The Ship at Dunswell.

THE FOLLOWING IS A CHECK LIST FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

If you intend to leave any luggage on the coach during either sailings, you could consider labelling it with your name for easy finding.

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 the following:

Your passport, sufficient Euros, your E111 card.

The ship's bars, etc. Accept both Euros & GBP.

All times stated are local times.

Travel Insurance is your own responsibility, there is `NO` automatic cover through membership to this association or our affiliation with the AEA. `This insurance never existed regardless what you have been told`

And finally, the agenda laid out above is not compulsory for all of you to abide too, if you want to do your own thing, so be it, the priority being an experience to be enjoyed by all.