



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 6th September 2019 at the 'Minerva'

Members Present: R. Able, M. Beardshaw, G. Coe, N. Cooper, G. Crum, T. Cunningham, J. Duffy, C. Gadd, R. Gill, C. Ham, D. Harvey, D. Hines, A. Homan, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, M. Lawrence, A. McGlynn, R. Meaching, D. Meekin, K. Millington, P. Morris, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Saddington, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, N. Sisson, B. Steele, A. Stimpson, J. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, T. Walker, A. Weldon, P. Wolstenholme, D. Woollas.

Apologies: P. Robinson, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, J. Mace, W. Drayton, M. Hall, M. Maddison, A. Foster, L. Smith, C. Hendrickson, D. French, R. Swatman, K. Blacker, S. Hoyle, G. Beaumont, A. Green, C. Walker.

Guests: Eileen Robinson & Pauline Meekin.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened this very well attended meeting (39) by greeting our two lady guests, it was good to see **Fred Gray** up from the 'smoke' and paying us a visit, also **John Duffy** making the meeting after a long forced absence, also **Dave Woollas** on crutches with two new knees, dedication. He then went on to recite **Binyon's** 'Ode of Remembrance'

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

Proposed by – **Terry Cunningham**

Seconded by – **Frank (Bud) Pougher**

Treasure's Report:

Glenn brought the meeting up to date with the current financial status of the association which is healthy, he reminded us all that he's taking money for trips in 2020 which are yet to be decided.

Relevant correspondence:

DONATION THANKS

Letter of thanks, dated 5/8/2019 to **Tom Smith (Treasurer Bir'ham branch AEA)** from the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity.

I write to acknowledge safe receipt and to offer my sincere gratitude for your generous donation of £525.00, following the new plaque that has been created and installed on the Toscaig Bridge in memorial of the 10 soldiers who sadly lost their lives in 1975. Please pass on my thanks to everybody who contributed to the success of this project and of course all who kindly donated.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to **Eamon Smyth** for all his hard work and dedication to this cause, not only for initiating the design and production of the plaque, but for taking the time to make the journey to Scotland to install it onto the bridge.

Adrian Bell (Chief Executive). Full version on request.

Best wishes to all from Tommy Burns & Ken Newton, e-mail dated 6/8/2019, looking forward to Arnhem.

John Donaldson sent an e-mail dated 12/8/2019 with minutes attached of an **EXTRODINARY GENERAL MEETING** at the Scottish Branch of the AEA which was held on 8/8/2019 at the Guards Club in Edinburgh.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AEA IN SCOTLAND

The problem being diminishing branch members with the current trend seeing the branch fade away within the next 10 years. Many good suggestions were put forward, but all are just tinkering around the edges of the real problem.

The hard facts are that the British Army is a fraction of the size it once was, and is likely to continue to be reduced further, add to these facts that young men don't have the time for associations. **Full version on request.**

Fred Gray e-mail sent on 15/8/2019, **299 MEMORIES**, see script in items from members section.

Chris Wilcock posted on the message bd on 16/8/2019. **BIRTHDAY INVITE**

Come and help me celebrate my 50th birthday, I'm having a birthday bash this W/end 17th Aug at the Triton in Brantingham (next to the pond we used to run through on Commando weekend 1). If any of you are in the area you would be cordially welcome. Drink on arrival & hog roast. It is a 1920's themed but association blazer will do fine.

Dean Ideson, Linda & Tony Kitching were the only attendees from this association and posted on the message board that everybody missed a brilliant night, very different, and thanked **Sara & Chris** for a really lovely evening.

Gilbert Nicol sent an e-mail on 21/8/2019, **AEA IN SCOTLAND**.

Hopefully this e-mail finds you and yours in good health. As you know we (AEA Scotland), have had a meeting re- The Future Development of our Branch, to this end I would like to ask you some questions;

- How many members do you have on your books?
- What do you do to try and entice other guys to be members?
- How do you see yourself in 10 years' time?
- How socially active is your branch?

My reply was based upon the operating format of this association which has been agreed and voted for by you the 299 membership. My full reply to **Gils** questions will be given out upon request, Scotland is having to face up to the numbers game, and this problem exists throughout all veterans organizations with many fading away without some radical thinking, and there is no guarantee of success whichever route is decided. I see amalgamation as a possible consideration, but this matter has to be driven from the floor.

Possible title:-

THE SCOTTISH VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Sounds good to me with affiliation to whoever may still be in existence, if that's what's wanted by the membership. I gave **Gil** 299's best wishes hoping that they can consider a positive future keeping friendships in place at all time.

Gary Newton posted on the message board 28/8/2019, **APOLOGY TO FALKLAND WAR VETS**

There is a rumour been fuelled that I served with 9 Sqn in the Falklands? As all of you know, this is, and was not the case and is just a misunderstanding on behalf of a friend which I have addressed.

To put it straight I did serve with 9 just after in Kenya and that's where the confusion came from.

I am very sorry for any hurt this may have caused veterans.

Forwarded to 299 message board from **Gil Nicol (Sec AEA Scotland)** on 31/8/2019, **BEREVEMENT**.

He was saddened to announce the death of **Lt Col (Retd) Stanley Peake** former C.O. of 131 Para Engr Reg (TA).

He passed away on Mon 26th August 2019 aged 92 years. We have been invited to attend a celebration of his life at Morton Hall Crematorium, Edinburgh on Mon 2nd September at 16:00 hrs.

Dean Ideson posted on the message board on 31/8/2019, **APPEAL FOR SUPPORT**

Could you please spread the word and ask if anyone you know is interested in supporting my friend **Jim** (ex-forces), who is putting on a gig in support of Combat Stress (Mental Health). Tickets are only £10 for 6th Oct – afternoon into the evening. **Jim** has had some amazing support himself after suffering PTSD and wishes to give something back for such a good cause.

The venue holds 300 people. He's already sold 100 tickets. There are some really good local bands going to be playing, who also played at the Humber Street Sesh. If not could I ask if you'd all put it on your FB page and try to spread the word? I would really appreciate it – thank you.

Anyone wishing to buy a ticket contact Dean on Mb: 07830348044, e-mail < DeanIdeson@gmail.com >

Dean Ideson posted on the message board on 1/9/2019, **SAD NEWS**.

I'm currently away & not been to meetings of late due to personal circumstances. I'm not sure if it's common knowledge or not but I've had a call from a good friend of **Tony Windass**.

I'm sorry to be a bearer of bad news but I've been reliably informed **Tony** is extremely ill and only has a matter of weeks to live. Not wanting to upset anyone but thought you'd best know.

Edd van der laan e-mail dated 4/9/2019, **RENDEZVOUS PICK UP FOR LES RANSOM EN ROUTE TO NIJMEGEN ON FRIDAY 20/9/2019.**

The chairman received instructions from above regarding the agenda for Arnhem Vet **Les Ransom.**

N/B: He made some enquiries and Nijmegen will be full of yanks with not much going on.

Social Calendar: ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2019

A CHECK LIST FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, Do not forget the following:

- Your passport,
- Sufficient Euros,
- Your E111 card,

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

You are staying at the following hotel:-

FLETCHER HOTEL, KABELJAUWALLEE 35

6865 BL DOORWERTH

THE NETHERLANDS

TEL: +31 (0)31 73 19010

E-MAIL: info@fletcherhoteldoorworth.nl

Travel Insurance is your own responsibility, there is 'NO' automatic cover through membership to this association or, our affiliation with the AEA. 'THIS HAS NEVER EXISTED'

Arnhem Pick up times on 19th September: 16:00hrs at the Ship Inn, Dunswell, 17:00hrs if going directly to the Riverside Terminal, King George Dock, we all rendezvous here to embark as a group.

Chairman's comments:

Memorial Parade & Service, Chris thanked the 15 members who paraded for the Memorial Day at the Yorkshire Air Museum on 1st Sept 2019 especially our Standard bearer **Tony Irwin** who never fails to fulfil this role. The rain stayed away on this grey and windy day, thankfully for the larger than normal number of spectators, many families, but unfortunately the Battle of Britain fly past display had to be cancelled for technical reasons. A group photo was taken in front of the Dakota.

Roll of Honour, the Chairman thanked our web-master **Dave Hines** for the splendid new presentation in remembering our departed friends, "**gone but not forgotten,**" he also thanked the relevant members for their input in researching and submitting the supporting scripts for each man. A good all-round effort with a brilliant result.

Spare a thought for two of our friends: **Big Bill Drayton** is very ill, he has struggled with his health for a while now after suffering a massive heart attack a couple of years ago, he is about to be brought home from HRI today 7/9/2019, he will need to settle in, but his wife **Dorri** will welcome visitors on an open house basis, may I suggest giving her a 'bell' first, contact details at the end of these minutes.

Tony Windass has been struggling over the last few years with a brain tumour which even after radical surgery still persists, he is at his home address and best check with **Chris Shillito** for visiting arrangements, his contact details at the end of these minutes.

On Saturday the 28th September 1975, 44 years ago, 10 men from 300 Troop 131 Para Sqn RE perished in the Cromwell Weir on the River Trent.

Ex 131 men intend to mark this anniversary with a short service at the site on the above date, men from the Birmingham Branch of the AEA will come by mini bust with the Hull men making their own way in private cars. The service is planned to start 11:00hrs with the Clergy **Canon Mark Adams** leading the proceedings, wreaths are to be laid by survivors of the said exercise **Trent Chase** and I am calling for a maximum turnout to mark this occasion, therefore please organise yourselves in filling all cars, the usual debrief will take place at the Ferry Inn, Nth Muskem, 1 mile away.

Matters arising: HULL4HEROES RECORD ATTEMPT

Marten Hall sends his apologies in for missing tonight's meeting because he is playing in the world record attempt 48hr touch rugby match in the Hull4Heroes team. This is all taking place at the Hull University pitch at the Allam Sports Centre off Inglemire Lane, Hull.

If you don't already know, Hull4Heroes are inviting both Hull Breakfast Clubs down to enjoy the delights of a military breakfast, courtesy of his new lot at 4 YORKS.

His first stint will be from 22:30 – 9:00hrs overnight tonight. It's for a great cause so bring some spare change for the donation buckets.

Craig Gadd is having a 131 flag made up and if any of you are interested please get in touch, the more the cheaper, Contact Mb: 07974086591.

Items from members: 299 Sqn memories from the mid 50's by **Fred Gray**. 15/8/2019

My first exercise after completing my para course was on the Isle of Man. We were jumping from the American C119 (The flying Boxcar). It was quite windy but the direction of the wind must have been blowing in from the sea. We were dropped very close to the cliff line but I don't remember anyone being dragged over the cliff onto the beach. The whole of the exercise was held in pouring rain which made it quite difficult when we were climbing up the steep hillsides. As I was young and energetic I volunteered to carry the section Bren gun. I don't know what the Vets thought of that, they just probably thought I was some over enthusiastic kid. After two days of continuous rain the exercise was called off.

Weekends on the ranges for the Hull squadron were held on the ranges at Holmpton just a few miles from Hornsea along the coast from Hull. Probably the most enjoyed of all week ends as after the days shooting it was into Hornsea to sample the pubs and meet the young ladies.

The biggest event for me personally was the week I spent in Guernsey. I had gone out on the advance party with Sapper Colin Ryder, LCpl Tommy Killgar and LCpl Mc Donald. We crossed from England to Guernsey by ferry and it was not a pleasant trip. The Squadron arrived a few days later and the main task was the destruction of some old German wartime fortifications. Working on the inside, the sappers used pneumatic boring tools to bore into the base of the walls, pack with explosive and detonate from a safe distance. The only incident was one of the Sappers, I think it was Stan Robinson was hit by a tiny piece of stone on the forehead. It knocked him over but he recovered after a bit of tender loving care by Timber Woods.

At this time the CO of 131 Regiment was Lt Col Lyatt Grant MC was visiting the squadron. He is still alive today but eye sight is deteriorating. He is aged ninety-two. Another officer Brigadier John Hooper (Adjutant during the fifties) is a good friend of mine and I will be speaking to him today, I will ask if it is OK for me to pass on his contact details.

Of Tommy Killgar, he was our resident grave digger. We were probably the only Regiment in the British Army to have their own grave digger. After I left the squadron Tommy was promoted to the Crematorium in Hull, (Chanterlands Ave) **Fred.**

Simbos bus Stop: no bus stop this month, donation of £30 gratefully received.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: At the Minerva on Friday 4th October 2019 at 20:00hrs.

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

Dates for your diary:

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.

44TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AT CROMWELL LOCK SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2019.

The proceedings will start at 11:00hrs at the monument, this short service will be led by **Canon Mark Adams**, the parish clergy, wreaths will be layed and we will debrief in the `Ferry` at Nth Muskum, (1 mile away).

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10TH NOV. 2019, muster 9:30hrs 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 the association.

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: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Tel: 01757 700016, Mb: 07795248328.

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Archivist: Tony Irwin, bigtirwin@hotmail.com Tel: 01482 793847, Mb: 07928956592.

WELFARE:

The veterans Hub & Forum, coordinator Callum Day for all your problems

Address: Goodwin Community Hub, Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 2LL, (opposite the `Tigers Lair`).

Tel: 01482 485958, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org

