



299 ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the AEA, but as always open to ALL 299 men past & present.

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 3rd September 2021, held at the Ship Inn, Dunswell, Nr. Beverley, at 20:00hrs.

Members Present: A. Alcock, D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, K. Blacker, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, R. Franklin, D. French, C. Gadd, G. Grindley, C. Ham, A. Irwin, M. Lawrence, J. Mace, M. Maddison, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, J. Palmer, F. Pougher, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Russell, M. Sadler, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, N. Sisson, L. Smith, B. Steele, R. Swatman, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, A. Weldon, P. Wolstenholme, N. Yates.

Apologies: F. Gray, S. Knowles, A. Costello, D. Woollas, D. Ideson, J. Harrison, A. Foster, C. Duggan, J. Brooks, T. Walker.

Guests: Pauline Meekin, Chris Dunn. Kenny Blain, Ali. Mohamad.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present then opened this very well attended meeting (37), by first thanking our landlord and host **Johnno Palmer** for the use of his Ship Inn again whilst the Minerva is not available this week due to some festival or other. For those who didn't know he then broke the sad news of the death of **John Moses** on the 6th August. He invited **Gaddy** to recite the Exhortation.

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

Proposed by – **Tony Irwin**

Seconded by – Pete **Robson**, and was carried

Treasure's Report:

Glenn brought the meeting up to date with the financial status of this association and then broke the news that 'Ledgers' (Tour Operator), have cancelled our Normandy trip, probably was never going to happen in the first place, but they still forced us to make total final payments under significant duress, one big game of bluff, with them holding back notice of cancellation in an attempt to get us to cancel first, which would mean sacrificing all our monies, this has backfired on them with 'Ledgers' having to completely refund all of our monies for those members fully paid up, leaving this tour operator never to be used again by 299, and good riddance.

Glenn apologised to all you disappointed Normandy trippers, but none of this could have been foreseen when we first booked during 2019, and we can only sympathise with you guys who chose to back out early sacrificing your deposits. This has been a bitter two year fight with 'Legers' against some of the very people (Vets), who keep this company in business, strange way to carry on, beating up on your customers.

Correspondence:

Email received on 13/8/2021 from **John Lee** (President of the AEA) with the sad news that **STAN PEPPER**, an in-pensioner at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea passed away last March at the age of 100. Could you please pass on the sad news to the members as many of the older members of 131 will remember him as the medic at Kingsbury, he attended to me after I was injured on my selection course back in '68 and I was in regular contact with him over the years whilst he was at Chelsea where he lived for over 20 years and left a great impression.

RIP STAN

Craig Gadd posted a message 19/8/2021 on the board inviting the association to his **GADDFEST** in remembrance of his dad **MICK**, (numbers check)

Johnny Mace posted the sad news on 23/8/2021 on the message board that **Johnny Moses** had passed away and sent his condolences.

N/B: Condolences for Johnny Moses were posted on the message board from the following:

Gaz Coe, Pete Robbo, Paul Simbo & Chris Sheggs.

L/Cpl JOHN HENERY MOSES'S funeral took place on 31st August 2021 in a crammed full small chapel at the Crematorium on Chanterlands Ave. in Hull. **John** died aged 83 years after a relatively short illness, he served with 299 from the late 50's – early 70's in Cypress, Aden, Germany, France & the Caribbean.

John was the grey man, quiet, but forever the complete airborne soldier, reliable, relentless and a great team player, the very best of company to be with in a tight spot, he commanded a great deal of respect from all ranks and was 299 to the core, this is a sad loss to us all.



Johnny Moses

Jamaica 1972

The following members attended **John's** funeral: **Coe, Macey, Weldo, Chuck Wilky, Woollas, Irwin, Simbo and Robbo. With apologies from Sheggs and Ratten.**

Social Calendar:

Chris encouraged members to consider attending the Airborne Engineers Association, AGM/ 31st Anniversary over in Harrogate this year, 6 members from 299 are already booked in, could do with a few more, see dates for your diary for details.

Chairman's Comments:

Next month (1st Oct), this association will be holding a much needed AGM, long overdue and I hope for big numbers, if there is only one meeting during the year that you can attend, this is the one you should support.

This 299 Association is only as good as the men who turn up, therefore if you think this association is worth keeping, please support it. You may not agree with the way it is run, you may not like certain members on the committee, don't whinge & whine about it, come and vote for your changes and improvements, every year the committee stands down to make way for any new blood, so if you fancy doing a job come and put your name down, you will receive all the help you need, remember, this association belongs to us all.

This association is a friendly and democratic society, all members can speak freely without prejudice and I would encourage them to do so.

If for some reason you cannot make the AGM, but have something to say, please let a member of the committee know your feelings and he will fight your corner, also if you would like a current committee member replaced you must suggest his replacement, even if it's yourself, there is no reason for anybody's views not to be heard. Everybody is welcome at all our meetings.

Chris thanked the 12 members of this association who attended **Craig's GADDFEST** on 29th August at 'Gaddy's Towers' on Beverley Road, Hull, **Craig & Dolly** put on a great afternoon with a suckling pig, live music and plenty to drink with good company, his dad would have been so very proud of him.

N/B: GADDFEST was **Craig's** way of saying a proper good bye to his dad also raising some money for pancreatic cancer. **Mick** died in the middle of the pandemic with all the restrictions that this entailed.

Chris also thanked the members who gave a 299 presence in saying good bye to our old friend **Johnny Moses**, our involvement at his funeral was so very important to **Marlene (wife)** and the rest of the family.

The new batch of 299 Association rugby shirts will not be ready for at least another 16 weeks, backlog on orders due to the virus.

Matters arising:

Message from **Fred Gray** sends his best wishes to all at 299, has not been up to Hull for months, will hopefully make a meeting in the not too distant future.

Special mention must go to **Dave & Carol Mace** over in Botany Bay, unfortunately **Carol** is receiving end of life care at her home address, because the whole of Sydney is under total lock down due to the virus and at least this way her family can visit. Forever in our thoughts.

Items from members:

Craig Gadd brought news on the Para Rough Riders and their charity ride around the country, they spent 16 days on the road and covered over 3,000 miles, visited 12 memorials raising £10,000 for SAMA (SOUTH ATLANTIC MEDAL ASSOCIATION), Falkland's war vets, this money will go some way in taking some of the family's to see the graves of their loved ones buried over there.

Simbos 'Strip Tease' bus Stop: only one lucky winner this month Bob Meachen in Garters.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: Friday 1st October 2021, kick off 20:00 hrs at the Minerva.

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

Dates for your diary:

“THE BATTLEFIELDS OF NORMANDY” (Cancelled)

Cromwell Lock disaster Service of Remembrance (timings TBC) on Sunday 26th September 2021 at the Memorial Garden next to the Lock near Newark. RSVP John Lee jlee664@btinternet.com Tel: 01531 636865. (The flypast is cancelled)

AGM/reunion 31st Anniversary to be held over the week end Fri 15 – 17th Oct. 2021 at the Cedar Court Hotel, Park Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5AH. This event is been hosted by the Yorkshire branch of the AEA.

For further details contact Adam Frame on adamandemma@gmail.com Mb: 07809904216

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 7TH NOV. 2021, 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:

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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

