



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Mick Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig McQuade**

**Minutes of Meeting held at The Royal; British Legion, Rodney Street , Edinburgh, EH7 4EL,
at 1300hrs on Sunday 18th May 2014**

- Members Present ;** Mick Walker, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Kim Panton, Norrie Bishop, John Donaldson, Dave Henderson, Andy Paterson, Doug Archibald, Alex McWhirter, Gordon McLeod, Brian Earl, Roy Kay, Ronnie Drummond, Frank Murray and Bob Hamilton.
- Chairmans Welcome ;** Mick Walker welcomed all present and thanked them for attending
- Apologies ;** Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Rom McCartan, David Brock, Andy Mullen, Eoghann macLachlainn and all overseas members.
- Welfare Report ;** Gil has been in touch with Raymond Mannion –apparently the medication he has been taking , both for his shoulder and prostate gland , have been ineffective and he will require surgery in both areas.
Kim Panton contacted Roy Kay and informed us that he is well enough to attend and we were glad to see him here.
Ron McCartan has had his bowel operation and was recovering nicely , however he started bleeding heavily and had to go back into hospital for another operation. This was more successful and he is on the way to a full recovery but still not allowed to ride his bicycle.
Mick walker has had an accident with his car and injured his foot , he has been treated and is also recovering nicely.
Andy Mullen had a MRI scan on Tuesday 1st April but is still awaiting a meeting with the consultant as he is still in considerable pain and discomfort.
Ronnie Drummond has had a problem with his legs but is feeling better now.
Dougie Archibald was not feeling so well a couple of months ago but has recovered nicely.
- Minutes of Previous Meeting;** The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by Brian Earl.
- Matters Arising ;** There were none.
- Secretary's report ;** (a) We have been informed by Bunny Brown (Birmingham Branch AEA , that Tom Carpenter an ex 9 Field Company (Airborne)member and also an Arnhem veteran has sadly passed away Our commiserations go to his family.
Following on this –it was proposed at the latest Birmingham Branch meeting that a bench be sited

at Arnhem in memory of our Airborne Engineers who fought there , cost approx £800.00, perhaps other branches of the AEA would help with the cost ?

This was discussed and it was agreed that if the bench was in memory of all Airborne Engineers then we would contribute if it was only in memory of Birmingham Branch Airborne Engineers then it was the feeling that Birmingham Branch should cover the cost.

(b) Congratulations were passed on to Mick Walker and Alex McWhirter who have just recently become Grandfathers for the first time.

(c) A donation, amounting to £50.00, has been forwarded to The Marie Curie Cancer Care in memory of the late Jimmy Simpson—a letter of acknowledgement has been received.

(d) A letter has been forwarded to The R.B.L., Rodney Street, committee regarding a change of date for our September meeting.

John Clark (RBL Secretary) confirmed that the 28th September is not available.

However we can meet on the 17th or 31st August 2014.

It was agreed that we meet on the 31st August 2014.

(e) Gil has sent out instructions , to the members who are attending Arnhem 2014, on how to apply for a postal voting form for the upcoming Scottish Referendum.

(f) Names are required for the Xmas Lunch to be held in The Royal Scots Club , Edinburgh on Saturday 29 November 2014. Names to be with Gil no later, or at, the next meeting on Sunday 20th July 2014. We will be charged for a minimum of twenty people so the more the merrier , other family members can be invited.

(g) Gil has contacted Peter Duff (The Falkirk Sappers Group) regarding the memorial service to be held for the lads who perished at Cromwell Lock in 1975. They will be parading at Grangemouth , same as last year, on 28th September so I have informed him that some branch members will be in attendance.. Further details will be forwarded when available.

(i) Cenotaph Parade—Names are required although we will still be receiving 4 No tickets as usual.

(j) L/Corporal Medlow, 9 Sqn has forwarded details of 9 Para clothing and memorabilia which can be purchased through him. Details were made available to all members.

8. Treasures Report ; Craig McQuade presented a verbal report stating that we were still financially healthy, which is good to know. The Financial report was passed as being accurate by Dave Henderson and seconded by Kim Panton.

9. Website Report ; John Donaldson informed the members that he has installed a new programme for our website.

Gil Nicol Proposed that John be reimbursed for the cost and this was seconded by Craig McQuade, However this offer was politely refused by John.

It was also brought to the members attention that any proposals to pay monies to John were already passed at a previous meeting.

John has received three photographs from Captain Olaf Dudley, 131 Indep. Cdo. Sqn. RE., who is hoping to have the Officers and SNCOs in the photographs identified. The photographs are as follows 131 Officers Mess Circa 1955, 131 Officers Mess 1962 and 131 SNCOs Mess 1952. The photographs are on AEA Scotland's Website. With the assistance of Robin Ward, former O.C. 300 Para. Sqn. RE and Ronnie Drummond a large number of those in the photographs have now been identified.

10. Shoebox Appeal ; No report as appeal suspended.

11. Future Meetings ; All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, every 2nd month starting from and including January 2014.
Meetings will commence at 1300 hours.

12. A.O.C.B. ;

We have been informed that an Armed Forces Day Parade will be held in Edinburgh on Saturday 22 June 2014—Details will be forwarded when available.

There will also be Armed Forces Day Parade in Stirling on Sunday 28th June 2014 – Details will be forwarded when available.

John Donaldson informed the meeting that he has written to the Prime Minister regarding the laying of a wreath on John Lonergan's Grave at Ma Allah Cemetery Aden on the 50th anniversary of his being killed in action, which is 12 April 2015. John also included a brief summary of 131s role in Aden and the circumstances surrounding John Lonergan's death.

No one in 131 received any Campaign Medals for their service in Al Milah and Al Anad and he asked the Prime Minister if a medal could be awarded, given 131 was the first TA Regiment to have been in action since WW2.

John has received an acknowledgment from Downing Street intimating his correspondence is under consideration.

John Donaldson and Gordon McLeod would like to know if anyone knows the whereabouts of Gus Paterson that he can be contacted regarding the 24 Sqn. RE., Al Milah reunion.

Frank Murray has spoken to Olaf Dudley who informs us that the current O.C 131 Indep. Cdo.Sqn . RE. is in favour of changing the name of the T.A. Centre to The John Lonergan Centre.

13. Date of Next Meeting;

OGM on Sunday 20th July 2014 (1300 hrs) at R.B.L.,Rodney Street , Edinburgh