



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Mick Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig Mc Quade**

Minutes of Ordinary General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 20th March 2016

1. **Members Present;** Frank Murray, Gil Nicol, Craig Mc Quade, John Donaldson, Gordon McLeod, Bob Hamilton, Alex Mc Whirter, Alex Cockburn, Doug Archibald, Kim Panton, Kenneth Wratten, Norrie Bishop, Eoghann macLachlainn, Bob Masson, Brian Earl, Andy Paterson, Andy Gemmell, Dave Henderson, Andy Mullen and Ronnie Drummond.
2. **Apologies;** Mick Walker, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoin McIntyre, George Doak, Ron McCartan, Raymond Mannion and all overseas members
3. **Chairmans Welcome;** Mick Walker was unable to attend, due to illness, so Frank Murray agreed to chair the meeting. Frank then asked us to be upstanding and remember our past members. He conveyed our best wishes and a speedy recovery for Mick Walker.
4. **Welfare;** Mick Walker, whilst on holiday with his wife Rosemary, suffered a heart attack. Happily he has had a successful operation (stent inserted) and is on the mend. Ron McCartan is still experiencing chest problems and is attending hospital in Larbert.
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting;** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Brian Earl and seconded by Kim Panton.
6. **Matters Arising;** There were no matters arising.
7. **Secretary's Report.** (a) **Renaming of Kingsbury Barracks 12 April 2016;** Mick Walker has taken names of all members wishing to attend this ceremony. The barracks are being renamed in honour of WO2 John Lonergan, SSM 300 Para. Sqn. who was tragically killed whilst attending camp at Aden in 1965. Details of travel arrangements will be passed on when available. (b) **Cenotaph Parade, London 2016;** This parade will be held on Sunday 13 November 2016 and we have been allocated 5 tickets. Anyone interested in attending this event please contact Gil Nicol (email address; gilbertandmyra@gmail.com or Tel No ;0141-631-2092). We have received a copy of a communication from our National President who received it from the Royal British Legion. It appears to show that the amount of hanging around and issues regarding forming up are to be addressed with some thought. There is also mention of maintaining standards and decorum during the parade as certain individuals on the day were seen as not paying full respect on the occasion. We are all aware this does not have an effect

upon our association in particular as we have always shown full respect, besides we are too focused on trying to maintain the step to even consider the use of cameras.

(c) **List of Sappers;** Fred Gray supplied us with the names of all the sappers who were tragically killed whilst participating in “Operation Trent Chase” in 1975. These names are being added to the Roll of Honour which will be lodged with 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment in the HQ Building at Woodbridge.

(d) **John Lonergan;** Frank Murray has received an email from John E. A. Lonergan, on behalf of his mother, Rhoda McLeod. As a family they are absolutely delighted that John Lonergan, 51 years on, is being remembered in this manner. They have asked to be kept informed of what occurs at this ceremony and we will make sure they are kept informed.

Frank has also received an email from Robin Ward, former OC of 300 Para. Sqn., who wants to supply and pay for a trophy in remembrance of John Lonergan. Robin has written to 131 Cdo. Sqn. asking if they would accept this trophy as a prize to be awarded annually to someone for outstanding performance in whatever field they choose. This was put to the members and discussed in detail and it was agreed to let Robin pay for this trophy. It was agreed that it should be called “ The Lonergan Memorial Trophy”. The wording on the trophy will be along the following guidelines “Presented by former members of 300 Para. Field Sqn.R.E.(TA) in memory of SSM John Lonergan—Killed In Action in Aden1965”

We would like to thank Robin for his contribution

(e) **Founders Day Parade;** Dave Rutter informed us that John Lee has informed The Airborne Engineers Association that we have been allocated 4 tickets for The Founders Day Parade at The Royal Hospital Chelsea on Thursday 9 June. The Protocol Officer (Chelsea) requires our bid no later than Friday 1 April. If any branch members wish to attend would you please contact John Lee at jlee664@btinternet.com or TEL; 01531-636865 by Tuesday 29 March 2016.

(f) **24 Field Squadron Reunion;** They are having a reunion on 5 – 7 August 2016 at Brighouse in Yorkshire and Tony Sanders extends an invitation to any member who wishes to attend. They had their 1st reunion a couple of years ago and one of the lads from Birmingham went along. Anyone wishing to attend can contact Tony Sanders at sanders44@btinternet.com

(g) **Sapper 300;** This is the 300th anniversary of The Corps of Royal Engineers and we will be celebrating with a selection of activities throughout the year. John Donaldson has forwarded details of all events to branch members. Gil Nicol has a hard copy for anyone who wishes to look at it.

8. **Treasurer’s Report;** Craig Mc Quade presented a detailed financial report which we are happy to see still leaves us in a healthy position. His report was passed as accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by Andy Mullen.

9. **Website Report;** John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are still receiving hits.

10. **Future Meetings;** All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, every 2nd month starting from and including January 2016. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs.

11. **A.O.C.B;** (a) **Annual Lunch 2016;** This will be discussed in more detail at our next meeting
(a) **Battlefield Tours 2017;** Gil Nicol is still collecting information and hopes to have a more detailed report at our next meeting.
(b) **Aden 1965 G.S.M;** John Donaldson has received a letter from The Right Honourable Earl

Howe PC regarding his letter to Lord Dannatt. This letter once again related to individual bravery awards as opposed to the **General Service Medal with Clasp South Arabia** for all who were in Aden at this time. John has replied to Lord Howe reminding him of the following;

“Regular and Reserve Forces are entitled to the same awards if they are involved in the same conflict at the same time”.

The members thanked the chair and closed the meeting

12. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 15 May 2016 (1300hrs) at R.B.L., Rodney Street, Edinburgh.