



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 18 September 2016.

1. **Members Present;** Mick Walker, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, John Donaldson, Gordon McLeod, Bob Hamilton, Alex Cockburn, Kim Panton, Eoghann macLachlainn, Brian Earl, Andy Gemmell, Alex McWhirter, Bob Masson, Kenneth Wratten, Andy Mullen, Doug Archibald, Norrie Bishop and Ronnie Drummond.
2. **Apologies;** Frank Murray, Andy Paterson, Raymond Mannion, Ron McCartan, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, David Brock, Eoin McIntyre, David Henderson and all overseas members.
3. **Chairmans Welcome;** Mick Walker welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.
4. **Welfare;** There were no matters regarding Welfare however Mick Walker thought it would be a good idea if members adopted a “buddy “system whereby members look after the welfare of other designated members. This will be looked at more closely at our next meeting.
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting;** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Kenneth Wratten and seconded by Andy Gemmell.
6. **Matters Arising;** The Secretary apologises to David Henderson for omitting him from the list of attendees at our last meeting on 17 July 2016.
7. **Secretary’s Report; (a) Cenotaph Parade, London 2016;** This parade will be held on Sunday 13 November 2016, and we have 3 members going to London to participate. Unfortunately, due to increased security requirements, we can no longer accept any other names.
(b) AEA Scotland Lunch; The annual lunch was held on Saturday 27 August 2016 at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh. It was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was agreed to have the lunch, in 2017, at the same venue however we will try and change the date to the first Saturday in September so as not to occur during The Edinburgh Festival. Gil Nicol will arrange this.
Unfortunately this year we had a shortfall of £87.50 due to members calling off at the last minute, this shortfall will be taken from the branch funds. Next year we will require a non-refundable deposit from members who indicate they wish to attend and all meals will be paid for in advance thus ensuring we do not have a shortfall.
(c) National AGM; This will be held on Saturday 15 October 2016 at The Royal Court Hotel Keresley, Coventry commencing at 1000 hours. Mick Walker, Kenneth Wratten and Alex Cockburn will be attending.

(d) Cromwell Lock; A remembrance service will be held at Zetland Park, Grangemouth on Sunday 25 September 2016 at 1030hours for 1100hours . Please make an effort to attend. Those attending please note Berets, Medals, etc., to be worn. There will also be a memorial service taking place at the same time at Cromwell Lock.

Last year there was a shortfall of £80.00 due to someone not turning up and only notifying us at the last minute. Branch members had a whip-round to make up the deficit thus ensuring Mick Walker was not out of pocket. Doug Archibald felt that the shortfall should have come from branch funds. The best thing we can do is ensure all monies are paid in advance.

The Branch Secretary will be contacting the National Secretary regarding the individual, who is not a member of The Airborne Engineers Association, but is an ex member of 300 Troop, indicating that he is not really the type of person we would wish to become a member. When the individual was approached about his non-attendance, by two different branch members, he gave two different reasons for not attending and has made no effort to pay the outstanding monies.

(e) Field of Remembrance; Edinburgh; Monday 7 November 2016, Princes Street Gardens, Scott Monument—1030hrs for 1100hrs—Berets, Medals, etc to be worn.

(f) Old Comrades Association Dinner; There will be a dinner held on Saturday 22 October 2016 at XV Para HQ, Houldsworth Street, Glasgow—1930hrs for 2000hrs—a 3 course meal will be provided for £15.00 per person. Application forms have been emailed to all members. East Coast members can contact Dave Ritchie at 0131-443-2331 who is organising a coach on behalf of PRA Lothian Branch.

8. Treasurer's Report; Craig Mc Quade informed the members present that we are still in a healthy financial position even although we have had a busy year. A financial report was presented and proposed for acceptance by Doug Archibald and seconded by Gordon McLeod.

9. Website Report; John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are still receiving hits. On 31 August 2016 John received a communication from a Duncan Paternoster regarding his father, **Michael Paternoster**, (REME) who served with 302 Field Park Squadron RE at Kingsbury, London. He knows that his father was in Cyprus in 1963 and wishes to speak with anyone who served with his father. Duncan Paternoster can be contacted at Telephone Number 01252 501655. Details are also posted on our website.

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) Battlefield Tours 2017; Gil Nicol presented a report on a Battlefield Tour but it was decided to leave this up to individuals to make their own arrangements.

(b) GSM with Clasp SouthArabia; John Donaldson has been writing to ministers and the MoD for the past two and a half years to get those who were in Aden the award of the GSM to no avail. He was sent a request for medals form to complete which he duly did and sent it to the Army medal Office. His reply was he had not met the criteria of thirty days and was not entitled to it. He then appealed the decision twice and on 16 September received the following in an e-mail; “ **I can confirm that the soldiers of 300 Para Sqn RE TA who lost their lives are entitled to this award, as set out in the Special Army Orders of 25th July 1966: 'If the qualifying service.... is brought to an end before the completion of 30 days on account of death, or evacuation owing to wounds, or other disability due to service, the reduced period of service will be sufficient qualification for the award'.**

In view of this John has written to the Prime Minister to see if she will wave the criteria of thirty

days and award the medal for this unique case. He awaits her reply. John has also written to several newspapers to get them to print our story but none replied to his letters. The saga continues.

(c) Dave Henderson sent a similar request and received the same reply. Dave pointed out that medals have been awarded retrospectively.

Andy Mullen also contacted the Army Medal Office applying for the medal. He was informed that according to his Army Service Record he was in the UK during the time 300 Sqn was in Aden. However, they said they knew he was in Aden, and when Andy queried this, he was told that they had got the information from our website and from ParaData. Andy was extremely annoyed at this and has appealed their decision and wants his case and all those in 300 Sqn who were in Aden to go before a review board. He awaits their reply.

Anyone who wants a copy of their Army Service Record should contact Army Service Records at 0345-600-966 Disclosures (Option 3)

E-mail address is apc-sp-disclosures1@mod.uk

(d) PRA Lothian Branch celebrated their 300th meeting on 17 July and we were invited to attend the festivities. We were treated to a steak pie dinner and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We would like to thank PRA Lothian for this kind gesture.

(e) Annual Dues; Doug Archibald suggested we look at increasing our annual dues. It was agreed to leave this for discussion until our General Meeting in November 2016.

(f) Fort William; Eoghann maclachlainn informed the members that there is a museum in Fort William which has a good display of military history. He suggested a visit, leaving from Glasgow on a weekday, sometime next year. This will be looked at in 2017.

(g) Denison Smock; Gordon has a Denison Smock which he will donate towards branch funds if someone can sell it on Ebay.

The meeting was brought to a close and we thanked the chair.

12. Date of Next Meeting; AGM on Sunday 20 November 2016 (1230hrs) at Royal British Legion ,Rodney Street, Edinburgh. Please make an effort to attend as we will be electing Office Bearers.