



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 17 July 2016.

1. **Members Present;** Mick Walker, Gil Nicol, John Donaldson, Gordon McLeod, Bob Hamilton, Alex Cockburn, Kim Panton, Eoghann macLachlainn, Andy Gemmell, Alex McWhirter, Bob Masson, Andy Paterson, Raymond Mannion, Ron McCartan and Ronnie Drummond.
2. **Apologies;** Frank Murray, Craig McQuade, Dougie Archibald, Andy Mullen, Willie Grant, Kenneth Wratten, Norrie Bishop, Tom Ormiston, David Brock, Eoin McIntyre and all overseas members.
3. **Chairmans Welcome;** Mick Walker welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.
4. **Welfare;** Frank Murray has had an injury to his leg, unfortunately he had an altercation with his lawnmower and hurt his leg. He will be attending hospital on Monday when they will decide whether to continue with regular cleaning and dressing or speed up matters with a skin graft. We wish him well.
Ross Stevenson passed away on boxing day 2015 which we are sorry to hear. We all stood for a minutes silence in remembrance of him. **“We will remember him”**
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting;** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Kim Panton and seconded by Alex Cockburn.
6. **Matters Arising;** There were no matters arising.
7. **Secretary’s Report; (a) Erskine Homes, Scotland.** We sent off a cheque to the value of £50.00 which was well appreciated
(b) 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..
(c) AEA Scotland Lunch; The lunch will take place on Saturday 27 August 2016 at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh. We have booked The Douglas Room at a cost of £95.00 (non-refundable deposit.) This deposit will be paid out of the branch funds. The room can hold 44 people and to date we have 30 wishing to attend .The meal will be a 3 course meal, plus coffee or tea and will have a choice of 3 for each course. All meals will be chosen from the weekly set menu and paid for individually. The cost of the meal will be £17.50/person and we have the room from

1200noon until 1700hrs, after which we can retire to the bar. Anyone interested please contact Gil Nicol at 0141-631-2092 or at gilbertandmyra@gmail.com.

(d) 24 Field Squadron Reunion; They are having a reunion on 5th – 7th 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

(e) National AGM; This will be held on Saturday 15th October 2016 at The Royal Court Hotel , Keresley, Coventry commencing at 1000 hours. Mick Walker and Alex Cockburn will be attending

(f) 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.

(g) Cpl Scott Wilson—On Sunday 12 June 2016 – 8 branch members and 2 former 9 Sqn members attended a memorial service for Cpl Scott Wilson at The Eastern Cemetery, Easter Road, Edinburgh where we laid a wreath on his grave. Scott was killed whilst involved in the battle for Mount Longdon during The Falklands War . He was a close friend of John Ferry (AEA Chairman) who served with him at this conflict. As John stated one minute I was talking to him and the next second he was gone. After the ceremony we retired to The Guards Club where we subjected our former 9 Sqn friends to good old Scottish Hospitality. John Ferry had asked us if we would carry out this duty since he was attending another Falklands ceremony and was not able to attend Edinburgh. We were pleased and honoured to assist. **“We will remember him”**

(h) Joe Davidson, a former 9 Sqn member handed over a commemorative plaque relating to Al Milah, Aden in 1965. The plaque is a 12”X 9” mahogany wooden frame with a glass front with an RE Badge etched thereon. Enclosed is a GSM with Clasp South Arabia. Also it has Para Wings, a Pegasus and Airborne all on a maroon background. It has a message etched on a silver plate which reads **“ PRESENTED TO THE MEN OF 300 PARA SQN RE. THANK YOU FOR 1965 AND THE SACRIFICE THE SQN MADE”**. This was passed to John Donaldson who will look after it.

8. Treasurers Report; In the absence of our Treasurer (Craig Mc Quade) Mick Walker informed the members present that we are still in a healthy financial position. This was based on the balance submitted to Mick by Craig Mc Quade.

9. Website Report; John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are still attracting visitors. John mentioned it is worth looking at 299 Associations website. There is also a website called “Lonergan Lines”

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. AOCB; (a) Battlefield Tours 2017; Gil Nicol is still collecting information and will have a more detailed report at our next meeting. There appears to be only a few members interested so we will be looking at Arnhem and Normandy Tours

(b) Aden 1965 – G.S.M; John Donaldson was sent a application form from RE RHQ to apply for the G.S.M which he duly completed and submitted. The Army Medal Office replied saying he was not eligible as he did not complete the requisite 30 days in Aden. However, John appealed their decision with a covering letter and his application is now being reassessed. David

Henderson sent a similar request and received the same reply. Dave pointed out that medals have been awarded retrospectively. Eoghann McLachlainn suggested we contact the press regarding this situation.

(c) PRA. Lothian Branch; Lothian Branch is celebrating their 300th meeting and invited us along for a steak pie dinner and to join in the festivities. This celebration will be held in the Main Hall downstairs after this meeting.

(d) Open Day – Saturday 30 July 2016 - 23 Para Engr Regt are holding an open day at Woodbridge Station from 1000hrs – 1600hrs—Free admission if you can present your “Cherry”beret.

(e) Armed Forces Days-Stirling/Edinburgh – Unfortunately no member has managed to attend due to either prior commitments or illness.

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

12. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 18 September 2016 (1300hrs) at RBL. Rodney Street, Edinburgh.