



# Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



[www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk](http://www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk)

Chairman – **Douglas Archibald**

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 19 March 2017**

1. **Members Present;** Doug Archibald, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Mick Walker, Frank Murray, John Donaldson, Gordon McLeod, Eoghann macLachlainn, Brian Earl, Alex McWhirter, Bob Masson, David Henderson, Norrie Bishop, Bob Hamilton, Andy Gemmell and Ron McCartan.
2. **Apologies** Kim Panton, Andy Paterson, Andy Mullen, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, David Brock, Eoin McIntyre, Ronnie Drummond, Alex Cockburn and all overseas members.
3. **Chairmans Welcome;** Doug Archibald welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He also thanked members for attending the funeral of Raymond Mannion and also the funeral of Eoin McIntyre's wife.  
We were all upstanding and observed a minutes silence.
4. **Welfare;** (a) John Donaldson is getting treatment for his eyes, he has macular degeneration of his right eye (b) Kim Panton has broken his arm but is progressing well
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting ;**The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by David Henderson.
6. **Matters Arising;** No matters arising.
7. **Secretary,s Report. (a) AEA Scotland Lunch;** The annual lunch will be held on Saturday 2 September 2017 at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh. Names to be given as well as a non-refundable deposit of £5.00 per head to Gil Nicol no later than our March meeting. Full price (Approx.£25.00/head) to be paid no later than our July meeting.  
**(b) Cenotaph Parade , London—12/11/17—**We are allocated 4 No places and it is good to see that all places are being taken by Gil Nicol , Gordon McLeod, Craig McQuade and David Henderson.  
**(c) 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary –131 Para.Engr.Regt—**as this is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding it was agreed that we meet up on 12 April 2017 (1230hrs) at The Guards Club , Edinburgh to Raise a glass or two and also to commemorate the unfortunate death of John Lonergan and Sgt Atfield who were killed in action whilst attending an overseas camp at Al Milah, Radfan, Aden.  
**(d) Operation Corporate-27/28 June 2017—**23 Para.Engr.Regt.will be hosting an event at Woodbridge commemorating this event—Details will follow.  
**(e) Normandy Trip—25/29 July 2017—**Gil Nicol submitted details of a trip to Normandy being organised by the Bedworth Branch of The P.R.A.

**(f) AEA—AGM & Reunion—Friday 20 to Monday 23 October 2017**—This will be held at Mercure Royal Hotel, Ferensway, Hull, HU1 3UF—Further details will follow.

**8. Treasurers 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. He also thanked our outgoing Chairman and his wife (Mick Walker & Rosemary) for their kind donation of £100.00. This was very well appreciated by all members.

**9. Website Report;** John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are still receiving hits. He also has put photographs of Charlie Imrie, when he was with 9 Sqn in Cyprus, on our website. Charlie's wife would like to meet up with some members who served with him. John also received an email from David Reynolds, Ex Parachute Regiment, who served in Afghanistan. He has written a book which he wanted members to be aware of and which they could purchase. On John's behalf David Reynolds contacted someone who works for "The Telegraph" newspaper who has printed a report on John's fight to get recognition for 300 Squadrons involvement at Al Milah, Aden in 1965.

**10. Future Meetings ;**All future meetings will be held, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, every 2<sup>nd</sup> month starting from and including January 2017. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs

**11. A.O.C.B. (a) Aden 1965 –G.S.M;** John Donaldson submitted the following report; Following the article in the Telegraph on Line which was not in parts factual John contacted The Herald Newspaper which carried the story on 20 March 2017 with some pictures including one of SSM John Lonergan. He was also contacted by the Editor South West News Service who sent the story to all national Newspapers. Unfortunately we are not aware who all carried the story but the Express on Line did. Whether all this publicity will make any difference to the bureaucrats in the MoD remains to be seen.

**(b) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service, Zetland Park, Grangemouth—Sunday 24 September 2017 (1030hrs)**—Mick Walker has been in contact with John Ferry and has asked if he would be prepared to travel up and play the bagpipes at this memorial service. Mick has offered him the use of his house should he require accommodation.

**(c) AEA (Scotland) Widows**—John Donaldson suggested we contact widows of those members who had passed away to invite them to an event in the future. This was approved by all members present.

Craig McQuade further suggested we invite a number of widows along to our AEA Lunch, held on 2 September 2017 and this will be paid for out of branch funds. This was agreed unanimously.

Dougie Archibald will contact Myra Drummond who keeps in regular touch with some of the widows.

**(d) Formation of 300 Squadron**—Gil Nicol looked into this and it appears, from various sources, that 300 Sqn. was formed on 1 April 1947.

**(e) 131 Veterans Bulletin**—The latest bulletin was issued by Olaf Dudley on 5/3/17 and it is worth looking at. John Donaldson gets a mention in this bulletin.

**N.B. Anyone wishing to contact Army Service Records please use the following details ;**  
**Army Service Records**  
**0345-600-9663**  
**Disclosures (Option 3)**

**Email address; [apc-sp-disclosures2@mod.uk](mailto:apc-sp-disclosures2@mod.uk)**

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

**12. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017(1300hrs) at R.B.L., Rodney Street, Edinburgh .**