



Airborne Engineers Association



Aldershot Branch
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at
Potters International Hotel
Aldershot
Sunday 17th October 2010
President
Colonel D.M.R.Eagan

Meeting Opened at 11.30hrs

Chairman: Fred Gray. e-mail f.gray3@ntlworld.com Tele: 01252 668339
Secretary: Betty Gray. e-mail b.gee33@ntlworld.com Tele: 01252 668339
Treasurer: Dave Rutter. e-mail d_rutter@sky.com Tele: 01252 326140
Entertainments: John Smith. e-mail thesmith@sky.com Tele 01252 326100

Members Present

Lt Col Dick Brown, Col. Denis Eagan, Brian Hubbard, Fred Gray, John Lee, Tony Manley, Syd Dane, John Mason, Gerry Hicks, Billy Morris, Ken Roberts, Ralph Pedder BEM, John Piffner, Dave Rutter, and Bob Wardle.

Apologies

Colin Bond, Jack Braithwaite, John Brennan, Bob Chatterton, Ron Day, Don Doherty, Phil Eccleston, Bob Ferguson, Bert Flatters, John Ferry, Dennis Healey, Anthony (Jim) Hill, Bryn Hitchings, Mick Humphries, Roy King, Barry Ladlow, Mick Leather, Derek Leggett, Roger Mockford, Rick Mogg, Peter Myatt, Frank Menzies-Hearne, John Murphy, Dave Normington, Jim O'Hagan, Harold Padfield, Eric Rundle, Brendan Snoddy, Sir Donald Spiers CB TD, John Smith, Steve Stephenson, Joe Stoddart MBE, Bob Sullivan MBE, Phil Taverner, Derek Taylor, Tom Tuddenham, Maj Peter Wade.

The Branch President Colonel Denis Eagan opened the meeting at 1130hrs and welcomed all those present. He also introduced our guest George Jones over from Australia. He then asked members to stand and observe a minute's silence in memory of Dave "Ginger" Goodfellow and Lou Habert who had passed away in recent weeks.

Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman thanked the membership for their support of the AGM and reunion held in Bournemouth two weeks previously. Thirty members and nineteen of the branch ladies attended what was a very successful and enjoyable weekend. John and Glenda, Joe and Silvia and Betty Gray had put in a tremendous amount of work and time to make it all work. They are to be congratulated for their efforts.

The sale of wrist bands for H4H raised £135 and further £265 from the sale of photographs and memorabilia donated by the sister of the late Louis Gallagher. This will also go to the same charity. The Executive Committee is to decide which charity is to receive the £250 from the auction of a framed print of Special Forces exiting a C130 and bought by Mike Leather.

Three new members to the branch were welcomed in their absence. Jim Hill from Farnborough, Brendan Snoddy and Phil Eccleston both living in Dorset. They are most welcome to our branch. Comment was made on the annual BBQ and once again we were lucky with the weather and the food was even better than the very high standard set by our master chef Tony Manley.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by John Lee

Seconded by: Brian Hubbard

That the minutes were a true record of the meeting

Carried

Matters Arising

The Chairman suggested that the shoebox parcels to be sent to 23 Regt now in Afghanistan should be delayed until the Christmas rush is over. He also reminded members that there is a number of female soldiers with the regiment who would require different contents to the male soldiers and bear in mind that there are other squadrons in the regiment than 9 Para Sqn. Names of addressees are being obtained from the Welfare Officer of the rear party in Woodbridge.

During the August meeting the question of a donation to the church in Normandy was proposed by John Mason. Members were asked to think about a donation to come from either the branch or from the association. It was agreed that other branches would be contacted and ask for their opinion on the matter.

Treasurer's Report

A brief report by the treasurer Dave Rutter showed that the branch funds were in a good healthy state.

Proposed by: Col Dick Brown

Seconded by Tony Manley

That the treasurer's report be accepted as a true record subject to audit.

Carried.

Correspondence.

The minutes of the Chatham, Birmingham Yorkshire and Scotland branches were made available for members to read.

The Scotland Branch had received notification that the late SSM of 300 Sqn TA (Scotland) John Lonergan had been awarded the ELIZABETH CROSS in recognition of his death whilst on active service in Aden 1965.

It was also the 35th Anniversary of the Cromwell Lock tragedy and was to be marked by a commemoration service on 26th September.

Branch Representative

The branch rep, Joe Stoddart MBE, was unable to attend the meeting. A report from the AGM in Bournemouth will be presented at the December meeting.

Entertainments

In the absence of John Smith on Holiday in Spain there was no entertainments report.

AOB

Proposed by Brian Hubbard

Seconded by John Lee

That a sum of £100 to be made available for shoebox parcels.

Carried

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 12. 45pm

A total of twenty-four members including wives and friends attended the lunch after the meeting.

Next meeting will be on Sunday 12 December, 11.00am for 11.30am followed by lunch for those who require it in the Potters restaurant. Please inform John Smith on 01252 100 at least one week in advance if you intend to have lunch.



9 Parachute Squadron
23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault)
Rock Barracks
Sutton
WOODBIDGE
IP12 3LU



Telephone 01394 46 2501 **Military** (9) 4627 2501
Fax 01394 46 2511 **Fax** (9) 4627 2511
Email 23ENGR-9ParaSqn-OC

2 Sep 10

Dear All,

We wanted to take this opportunity to write and introduce ourselves to you. Having both recently taken up our posts as OC and SSM, and with the Sqn deploying to Afghanistan, we thought that it was very important to touch base before we left. We've attached short biographies, which should serve to give you an idea of our backgrounds. We are both completely committed to the Sqn in its widest sense and to maintaining the inseparable bond with the Airborne Engineers Association. In our respective roles we acknowledge the great work done by our predecessors, Maj Joe Fossey and (now) WO1 (RSM) Paddy Beattie – they were fantastic ambassadors and worked tirelessly to maintain the reputation of the Sqn as a thoroughly professional organisation that looks after its family.

The Sqn deploys on operations to Afghanistan in September for six months. As you would expect we are well-trained, highly motivated and raring to go. While the tasks will vary, we will predominantly be focussing on the construction or maintenance of bridges, roads and operating bases. These will bring greater security to Helmand Province but also, by facilitating economic development, improve the quality of life of many Afghans. In all of this we will work in partnership with the Afghan National Army and Police and alongside coalition partners from 46 different nations. However, we can't pretend that we will be able to solve all of the world's problems in our six-month deployment, and will therefore remain mindful of the importance of our handover to the sqn that replaces us in theatre.

We will endeavour to keep you updated with our progress periodically and look forward to coming to talk to you about our experiences when we return.

Best wishes

Maj John Clark (OC)

WO2 (SSM) Marc Dorkings