



Airborne Engineers Association Aldershot Branch

Minutes of the OGM Meeting held at 65, Westover Road, Fleet Sunday 26TH August 2012

The Chairman, Joe Stoddart MBE opened the meeting at 1205 hours, welcoming all attendees and thanking them for their presence. He also expressed sincere thanks to Fred & Betty Gray for once again hosting the Branch annual BBQ.

Members Present:

Joe Stoddart, Dave Rutter, John Lee, John Ferry, Rick Mogg, Fred Gray, Wally Clift, Tony Manley, Bob Sullivan, Harold Covington, Steve Stephenson, John Barrie, Phil Eccleston, John Pfiffner, Jerry Hicks, Brian Hubbard, Bob Wardle, Ralph Pedder, John Smith, Billy Morris, Syd Dane, Ray Coleman, John Mason & Chris Chambers

Apologies

Brendan Snoddy, Sir Donald Spiers, Dennis Healey, Jimmy Hill, Ron Day, Colin Bond, Jim O'Hagan, Mick Humphries, Dick Brown, Eric Borlace, Bob McCann, John McIntosh, Ken Roberts, John Aldridge, Tony Roberts, Bob Chatterton, Eric Borlace, Phil Taverner & Dave Leibrick

Chairman's Remarks:

Joe Stoddart called for a minute's silence in memory of the passing of Col Dennis Eagan and most recently Harry Evans.

Following the silent tribute Joe read from the letters he had received from Henry & Simon Eagan and also from Col Eagan's widow Helen. The letters expressed the family's sincere thanks to the branch members for their attendance at the Colonel's final farewell and for the immaculate display of 'red berets' on parade.

Minutes of the previous OGM – matters arising:

The chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

As there were no comments or observations it was proposed by Phil Eccleston and seconded by Bob Wardle that the previous minutes be accepted: **Carried**

Treasurers Report:

The treasurer gave a breakdown of the funds (subject to audit) which he was pleased to announce were in the black and in a healthy state. The figures stated would not include the cost of the BBQ, which was to be paid for from the branch funds.

Proposed by Ray Coleman and seconded by Wally Clift, that the Treasurers Report (subject to audit) be accepted: **Carried**

Correspondence:

Dave Rutter read extracts from the minutes of the recent meetings held by the Chatham, Yorkshire and Birmingham branches.

Entertainments – John Smith

John confirmed that the venue and date for the 2013 AGM/Reunion is to be held at the Carrington House Hotel, Bournemouth during the weekend 4 – 6th October 2013. Full details together with the booking proforma will be published in the April 2013 edition of the journal.

Members were asked to consider a suitable venue for the 2013 Branch Spring Luncheon. It was generally felt that the Ely hotel did not come up to expectation for the luncheon held there earlier in the year. It was suggested that we return to Squires Holt restaurant on the Hogs Back in April 2013. John Barrie volunteered to do a recce of the restaurant.

John once again brought up the subject of a visit in 2013 commemorating the Rhine Crossing. This brought an adverse comment from Bob Sullivan who had attended the 2012 trip in which he was extremely disappointed in the organisation – they couldn't even find the DZ! He stated that he would not be interested in any further visits.

John gave details of his absence (holidays again!) he'll be away in Spain 12th September – 5th October then in America from 19th December – 2nd January 2013

Double Hill Service of Remembrance – 2nd September 2012

John Ferry gave details of the above-mentioned service. Maj John Wilson, the current OC 9 Para Sqn RE will be laying a wreath at this ceremony

AGM/Reunion 2012 – Hull

John Lee reminded members who had not yet booked their accommodation for the weekend in Hull, that the hotel would soon be releasing the rooms to other members of the public. There are numerous other places of accommodation within 10 minutes walking distance and these too offer very good prices.

To date 126 association members and guests have booked into the Mercure Hotel. Lt Col Mike Tindle, CO 23 Engr Regt (Air Asslt) has accepted our invitation and so too has Maj John Wilson. An invitation has also been sent to the Mayor of Kingston-upon-Hull.

Arrangements have been made for a carvery to be available to all members on the Friday evening (26th October) at the Mercure Royal Hotel, Hull. Those wishing to partake of the carvery should either book in at their arrival on the day or make a reservation prior to this with the hotel (tel: 01482 325087).

The carvery will be in the restaurant and will be available from 18:30 to 20:30 the cost will be £11.95 for a two-course meal and £13.95 for a three-course meal.

Any Other Business

Proposed by Dave Rutter, Seconded by Bob Sullivan that the proceeds from the BBQ raffle be donated to the charities nominated by the 4 runners undertaking the 70 miles in 20 hours to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands conflict – the run will take place in November. These charities will include 'Combat Stress' and the Falklands hospital.

Carried unanimously

Membership Update

Billy Morris gave an update concerning membership of the Association – the latest member (1,436) Scouse Downie Who served with 9 Sqn during the early 70's and later with 22 SAS.

Unveiling of the COPP Memorial

Ray Coleman gave details of the unveiling of the Combined Operations Pilotage Parties memorial. He also mentioned that Bill Powell a former SSM of 9 Sqn was a member of this unit.

The COPP Heroes Memorial Fund has been established to raise awareness of the COPP (Combined Operations Pilotage Parties) contribution to the allied war effort in WW2, and to raise funds to create a fitting memorial to these wartime heroes, on the Seafront at Hayling Island. The top secret COPP Depot was set up in 1943 on Hayling Island under the instruction of Lord Mountbatten. Small teams of sailors and soldiers trained as frogmen and canoeists for covert beach reconnaissance and other essential clandestine operations prior to the Allied landings on enemy occupied territory throughout the world.

Lt. Col Dick Brown, who at the time was in charge of the 24 Commando Regt RE arranged the transportation of the granite stone from Cornwall to Hayling Island.

The dedication and unveiling will take place on Thursday 27th September 1130 hours at Hayling Island.

Harry Evans – Funeral Service (Amendment)

The service will be conducted at Woking Crematorium, Hermitage Road, St. Johns, Woking, GU21 8TJ. (Tel No: 01483 472197) at 1230 hours on Monday 10th September.

BBQ Raffle Proceeds

The raffle raised the grand total of £235 and following Billy Morris expression of thanks to the members and emphasising the causes to which the money would be donated, further donations were made by various member raising the total sum to **£332-00**

Chairman's Thanks

The chairman extended sincere thanks to Tony Manley in providing, yet again, another super BBQ feast and also praised the ladies for providing the salads and desserts.

Branch Subscriptions – Polite Reminder

There are still several members who have yet to pay their annual branch subscriptions – please drop your cheque in the post (£6) at your earliest convenience and send to: Dave Rutter Fermain, Hazel Road, Ash Green, Aldershot Hants GU12 6HR

There being no further business Joe Stoddart closed the meeting at 1250 hours

The next branch meeting will be held at **Potters International hotel on Sunday 25th November 2012 (1100 for 1130 hrs)**

Those wishing to attend the carvery lunch following the meeting are requested to contact John Smith before Monday 19th November – Tel: 01252 326100 or E-mail: thesmith@sky.com