



THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

President: Mr. Tom Carpenter 0121 779 3488
Chairman: Mr. Bunny Brown 0121 770 1880
Secretary: Mr. Steve Brown 0121 251 6881
Mobile 07882843958

E-mail: stevebrown4@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs Elsie Barrett 0121 628 7578
Membership Secretary: Mr. George Barrett 0121 628 7578



MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING

Held at Chelmsley Wood British Legion

04th February 09

1. **Meeting opened** at 20:15 hrs.
2. **Members Present:** Bunny Brown, Steve Brown, Brian Care, Kevin Lambeth, Eddie Fenwick, John Phillips, George Barrett, Pete Clarke, Dave Bowron, Rip Kirby, George Hopkins, Alf Manders, Tony Higgins, Alan Parkes, Brian Fosbury, Gordon Page, and of course the Ladies.
3. **Apologies from:** Tom Carpenter, Bob Jones, Dave Clarke, Harry Potter, Bob Potter, Mike Cole, Roy Hicks, Barrie Aitken, John Browning, Ray Sands, Mike Holdsworth, Bob Dorrell, Roger Howells, Peter Pederson, Alan Oakley, Ron Mason and John Mason.
4. The Chair thanked all for attending.
5. **Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were read and voted as correct and true. Proposed by Rip Kirby. Seconded, Brian Care. **Carried.**
6. **Welfare:** It is with great sorrow to announce that Larry Perry, a long time member, has passed away recently after a short illness. His family, friends and the branch will sadly miss him. Our condolences to his family. The funeral will take place at Perry Barr Crematorium on Friday 6th February 09 at 14.30 – 14.45. Members attending are asked to wear blazers, tie and berets. The branch unanimously voted to send a wreath that will be organised by Brian Care. Harry Mennie has been in contact with the branch and reports that he is making a steady recovery. Eddie Fenwick attended the meeting and says he is recovering well and is due to start physiotherapy very soon. Roy Hicks has had another operation recently and is making a good recovery.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Funds are healthy at present. Thank you Elsie.
8. **Boots and Beer Club:** Next meeting to be arranged.
9. **Shoe Box Parcels:** Brian and Pat Care and George and Elsie Barratt are continuing to send parcels. The branch gave thanks to both couples for their hard work in sending these worthwhile parcels. George and Elsie have received 3 letters thanking the branch for their generous and kind gesture in sending these parcels. The Chairman read the letters out to the branch members.
10. **D-Day visit 2009:** For update next meeting.
11. **Clay Pigeon Shoot:** For update next meeting
12. **St Georges Dinner:** 25th April 09, Stechford Club. Correction on cost, which is £18.00 per person not £17.50. Booking proforma below.
13. **Ex OCs and SSMs of 299 and 301 Squadrons:** The new AEA secretary, Major Geoff Howard is asking for assistance in contacting the Ex OCS and SSMs of 299 and 301 Squadrons. If you are aware of any of these Gentlemen could you please pass on any detail that you may have. Thank you

14. Para Course: Kev Lambeth reported that there is a Para course being run in May in Slovakia with jumpmasters from several countries' available. The likely cost is to be £600.00 inclusive. Insurance will be down to the individual.

15. Any Other Business:

The Secretary, Steve Brown, Raised 3 points:

a, Nick Gibson, son of Smokey Gibson, has contacted the association to say that he will be scattering his Dad's ashes in Normandy on the 6th June 09. Nicks contact number is 01634 862389.

b, 131 Indep Cdo Sqn RE (V) cross-country skiing team are performing magnificently under the leadership of WO2 `Fran` Franzese. They have won the Corps Championship in Sweden in December have just come overall second in the UK Land Forces Championships and are now into their toughest round the Army Championships in Germany. Good Luck.

c, Ray Elliott has posted details on the AEA website for assistance in compiling a General Database of all Commando Trained Royal Engineers. Those that have served with 59 Indep Sqn 24 Cdo Regt 131 Indep Sqn 49 EOD, and also any blue beret personnel that may also have served with these units. The Database was designed by Brigadier Garth Hewish. At present Ray has 2000 names but only 350 fully registered lads. The details he requires are; Name & Nickname, Rank on leaving the Army, Date of joining the Army, Date on leaving the Army, Commando units served with approximate year joined/left, Commando troops served in with year joined/left. Rays Contact details are:

**Ray Elliott
36 Sandy Avenue
Shotts
LANASKSHIRE
ML7 5EG**

Telephone 01501 821543

E-mail relliottent@aol.com

Anyone who wishes to be included on the database can either contact Ray directly or pass details through me. No details will be released to individuals and all detail will be kept private. Please assist Ray by passing the word.

14. Branch Shop: Your support is needed to sell the remaining stock. Prices are;

Polo Shirt	£17.00
Baseball Cap	£10.00
White cotton dress shirt, short sleeve	£18.00
White cotton dress shirt, long sleeve	£20.00

15. Next Meeting: Wednesday 1st April 09 at the Royal British Legion, Chelmsley Wood, 1945Hrs

16. Journal Publication Deadline: For April Issue. Closing date will be **MONDAY 16TH MARCH.**

W Steve Brown
Secretary



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Diary of Events

- 4th March 09 - Branch Meeting
- 1st April 09 - Branch Meeting
- 25th April 09 – St Georges Dinner

AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

St Georges Dinner

At the Stechford Club

7 Victoria Road, Stechford.

25th April 09

REPLY PROFORMA

FROM: - (Please PRINT name & address)

Number of tickets required _____ at £18.00 per head.

Please find enclosed a cheque, made payable to AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION Birmingham Branch
For the sum of £ _____

Please send a list of your guest's names for the seating plan. Please indicate if vegetarian option is required.

Please return to, Mrs Elsie Barratt, 292 Brays Road, Sheldon, BIRMINGHAM B26 2PP.
Telephone, 0121 628 7578.

Please Reply A.S.A.P.