



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
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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

1st April 09

- 1. Meeting opened** at 20:35 hrs.
- 2. Members Present:** Bunny Brown, Steve Brown, Brian Care, Dave Clarke, Kevin Lambeth, John Phillips, Harry Potter, Bob Potter, George Barrett, Pete Clarke, Mike Cole, Roy Hicks, Rip Kirby, George Hopkins, Mike Holdsworth, Ray Sands, Alan Parkes, Barrie Aitken and of course the Ladies.
- 3. Apologies from:** Tom Carpenter, Bob Jones, Dave Bowron, Bob Dorrell, Roger Howells, Peter Pederson, Alan Oakley, Alf Manders, Tony Higgins, John Browning, Danny Flynn, Eddie Fenwick, 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, Mick Cole. Seconded, Rip Kirby. **Carried.**
- 6. Welfare:** Tom Carpenter and Bob Jones are both suffering with leg problems at present. Tom Smiths` wife, Ann has recently had throat surgery but is now recovering. Alan Oakley`s wife, Hazel has recently been taken back into hospital after complications from previous surgery, but is now improving. The branch sends its best wishes to all and hope for a speedy recovery.
- 7. Treasurer`s Report:** Funds are healthy at present. Thank you Elsie.
- 8. Boots and Beer Club:** Next meeting Sunday 5th April 10:00 for 10:30 Red Lion, Hopwas. TBC
- 9. Shoe Box Parcels:** Elsie Barrett had received a letter from Marine Ross Barrett thanking the Airborne Sappers for their generous gifts in the numerous Shoe Box parcels that had been sent while they were deployed.
- 10. D-Day visit 2009:** Mike Holdsworth is to keep members attending up to date. 12 members are going at present.
- 11. Clay Pigeon Shoot:** Mike Holdsworth looked at The Packington Shoot and he reported that this was an excellent shoot but other venues are also to be looked at. Mike will keep the branch informed with a possible date of late June or early July.
- 12. St Georges Dinner:** 25th April 09, Stechford Club. Correction on cost, which is £18.00 per person not £17.50. 34 members so far attending.
- 13. Commando Engineer Reunion:** this reunion will be held from 12 – 14 June at the Royal Marine Barracks, Chivenor, Devon. Anyone who is interested please contact the secretary.
- 14. Airborne Forces Day Portsmouth 5/6 July 09:** George Barrett will keep the branch informed.
- 15. Any Other Business:**

Brian Care: Brian informed the branch that the annual shooting competition against the RRF Association will be on 7th June 09 at Swynnerton. Cost £5.00 per shooter. The branch can enter 2 teams of 4. Anyone interested please call Bunny Brown

Brian Care: Brian informed the branch of the local Freedom/ Homecoming parades for the RRF Regiments. Briefly these are, Coventry 29th April 09, Rugby 1st May 09, Nuneaton 1st May 09, Leamington Spa 2nd May 09, Stratford on Avon 2nd May 09. If anyone requires more information please contact the Secretary.

Brian Care: Informed the branch regarding the Federation "What's On" programme. Briefly these are, 26th April 09 St Georges Parade, 10th May 09 Normandy Vets Parade, 27th June Armed Forces Day Lunch, 4th July 40s Day Severn Valley Railway, 22nd July 26 Regt RA Freedom of the City, 16th August Federation Day lunch with monies going to Troop Aid, 8th November 09 Remembrance Sunday, 20th December Christmas lunch. More information from the Secretary.

Steve Brown: Informed the branch of the Rhine 2 Rock Charity run by Steve Morris and Bob Chatterton on 25th/26th April 09. The run is from Rhine Barracks, Aldershot to Rock Barracks, Woodbridge a distance of 150 miles in 40 hours. Anyone wishing to sponsor these members can do so at www.justgiving.com/rhinetorock150

Steve Brown: informed the branch that Sapper Tony Jones of 131 Cdo Sqn and works for British Gas are installing 200 central heating systems within local communities with the most need. If you know of anyone who may qualify for this scheme please contact the Secretary.

John Phillips: John has recently been in contact with Bob Gravenor who sends his best wishes and he hopes to see everyone in 2011 on a visit from New Zealand.

16. 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

17. Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th May 09 at the Royal British Legion, Chelmsley Wood, 1945Hrs

18. Deadline for items for the **AUGUST** Journal is **MONDAY 13th July 09.**

W. Steve Brown
Secretary

Diary of Events

- 25th April 09 – St Georges Dinner
- 6th May 09 – Branch Meeting
- 3 June 09 - Branch Meeting
- 1st July 09 - Branch Meeting



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 1ST 2009 Held at the Chelmsley Wood RBLC

Members Present: Bunny Brown, Steve Brown, Brian Care, Kevin Lambeth, John Phillips, Harry Potter, Bob Potter, Barrie Aitken, George Barrett, Pete Clarke, Dave Clarke, Mike Cole, Roy Hicks, Rip Kirby, George Hopkins, Mike Holdsworth, Ray Sands, Alan Parkes, and of course the Ladies.

Apologies from: Tom Carpenter, Bob Jones, Dave Bowron, Bob Dorrell, Roger Howells, Peter Pederson, Alan Oakley, Alf Manders, Tony Higgins, John Browning, Danny Flynn, Ron Mason and John Mason.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 20:00hrs and thanked all for attending. The Chairman then presented His report, which is printed below.

Introduction

May started the year off well for the Chairman with the R R F shoot at Swynerton, when Alan Brough and Mike Holdsworth both aimed off so that I could win the Branch Shooting trophy.

June brought sadness to many of the branch with the passing of Fred Boyle, may he rest in peace.

July with Mike Holdsworth's Golden brick party or should we rename it the soggy garden party many thanks to Mike and Les Chester for providing and cooking a rather large pig, thanks also to Sue for the rest of the catering on the day and suffering us all traipsing around the muddy garden. Thanks also to Dave Clarke and His long suffering Wife Wendy, for inviting us all to their 40th wedding anniversary.

August and September were quiet months while we readied ourselves for the AGM and Re-union at the Royal Court. Birmingham Branch took the credit for organizing this event so I would like to thank all who helped with the organizing. It turned out to be a very good weekend with beer on tap all weekend at £1.50 per pint.

We now move on to our annual dinner at the Holiday Inn Elmdon, again we had a good turn out and the food as usual was very good, we managed to make a small profit on the event last year but cannot guarantee that it will happen again, I still believe that for the price it is still the best venue to be had, again thanks to all who helped with the organizing.

January brought us another body blow with the loss of Larry Perry after a short illness; I know that we will all miss him.

On finishing my report I would like to bring up the sterling work done by Brian and Pat Care and George and Elsie Barrett with the shoe box parcels, around £615.00 in donations from the Branch and individuals has been spent on articles for the parcels, how much time and effort goes into them only they will know so once again thank you all very much.

The last item that I would like to mention is the Boots & Beer brigade, we managed over the last couple of years to stay dry, I apologise for getting everyone wet on our last outing and hope that it is not a sign of things to come.

Thanks to all for your support.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer, **Elsie Barrett** presented the account spreadsheet for members to inspect and this was accepted. A big thank you to Elsie for maintaining and balancing the accounts.

Committee: There being no nominations for committee members the present committee will remain in place for the next 12 months. The AGM Closed at 20.30

