



THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

President: Mr. Tom Carpenter 0121 779 3488
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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

2nd December 09

- 1. Meeting opened** at 20:15 hrs.
- 2. Members Present:** Tom Carpenter, Bunny Brown, Steve Brown, George Barrett, John Phillips, Brian Care, Harry Potter, Bob Potter, Dave Clarke, Pete Clarke, Bob Dorrell, Tommy Smith, George Hopkins, Peter Pedersen, Jim Hurley, Mike Holdsworth, Gordon Page, Al Parkes, Mike Cole, Kev Lambeth, Rip Kirby and of course the Ladies.
- 3. Apologies from:** Bob Jones, Roy Hicks, Roger Howells, Eddie Fenwick, Alf Manders, Ray Sands, Ray Richards, Neville Collins, John Browning, Brian Fosbury, Ron Mason and John Mason.
- 4.** The Chair thanked all for attending. The Chairman attended the meeting although suffering from Flu like symptoms.
- 5. Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were read and voted as correct and true. Proposed by, Bob Dorrell. Seconded, John Phillips. **Carried.**
- 6. Welfare:** Bob Jones has unfortunately had a very bad fall in which he has broken his knee, pelvis and his thumb, he is currently in Heartlands Hospital, Rowan Ward but says he does not want any visitors at present. Roy Hicks is also in Heartlands Hospital at present, ward 24. Roy was taken in over last weekend and is currently bearing up, Alan and Kath Parkes plus Brian and Pat Care visited Roy recently. Eddie Fenwick has also been in Good Hope Hospital after a fall in a Chinese restaurant he is now at home but suffering. The branch sends its best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery to all. A vacancy has become available for a Veteran over 65 in residential accommodation in Warwick, it is not a Military hospital but similar to the Chelsea Hospital. The accommodation can either be single basis or accompanied by wife, if married. Meals will be included and you will be expected to carry out a little light work such as gardening and keeping the place tidy etc. Anyone interested you can contact Colonel Bob Caruthers on 01283791315 for further information.
- 7. Treasurer's Report:** Funds are healthy at present. Thank you Elsie.
- 8. Boots and Beer Club:** Meetings cancelled until next year. A forecast of future meetings has been requested so that these can be included in the Diary of Events.
- 9. Branch Christmas Dinner 5th December 09.** 5th December 09 at the Holiday Inn, Elmdon. There will be 2 guest speakers on the evening, Mike Hookem who is Chairman of the 299 association and Stuart Messer who works on the Military wing of Selly Oak Hospital. There will be an auction on the evening where Ron Mason has generously donated a golf day for 4 people at the Draycote leisure centre and Mike Holdsworth will be auctioning Normandy memorabilia. All proceeds will go to the Military Ward S4 at Selly Oak Hospital. Please bring along raffle prizes on the evening. The menu was announced but there are to be some alterations to this.
- 10. Shoe Box Parcels:** George and Elsie Barrett plus Brian and Pat Care have resumed the sending of these parcels and are currently sending them to 28 Squadron via RSM Howell.
- 11. Any Other Business:**

George Barrett. George bought up the subject of the Stechford Memorial Remembrance parade and said that he felt that it was worth a mention due to its excellent turnout with a good number of red berets on show.

Harry Potter. Harry passed a comment that in his experience there was a significant time period before the shoebox parcels were actually delivered to the troops after being posted. Bob Dorrell also stated that when his son was deployed the parcels were usually playing catch up because the units were being moved around the country

12. Branch Shop: Your support is needed to sell the remaining stock

13. Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th January 10 at the Royal British Legion, Chelmsley Wood, 1945Hrs

14. Deadline for the April 2010 edition of the **AEA JOURNAL** is Friday 12th March 10. Please don't leave it until the last moment

W. Steve Brown
Secretary

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all.

Diary of Events

- 5th December 09 - Branch Christmas Dinner
- 7th January 10 - Branch Meeting