



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
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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
5th May 10

1. **Meeting opened** at 20:00 hrs.
2. **Members Present:** Tom Carpenter, Bunny Brown, Steve Brown, Brian Care, John Phillips, Pete Clarke, Roger Howells, Bob Dorrell, Dave Bowron, Kev Lambeth, George Barrett, George Hopkins, Rip Kirby, Mike Holdsworth, Barrie Aitken, Alan Parkes, Mike Cole, Peter Pedersen, Chris Green, Bob Potter, Harry Potter, Tony Higgins, Roy Hicks, and of course the Ladies.
3. **Apologies from:** Bob Jones, Eddie Fenwick, John Browning, Dave Clarke, 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, Dave Bowron. Seconded. George Barrett. Carried.
6. **Welfare:** Eddie Fenwick has another appointment at the Hospital on Thursday 13th May after feeling unwell for some time; Eddie may have to have another stent fitted. Roy Hicks and his wife Sally attended the meeting and said that they both felt a lot better. Tom Carpenter has been in touch with Bob Jones who is now at home and being cared for there. Harry Mennie has had another operation and is now mobile and intends to attend meetings when he is in the area. The branch sends its best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery to all.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Funds are healthy at present. Thank you Elsie.
8. **Boots and Beer Club:** Next meeting will be on the 8th May, meeting at the Black Boy, Knowle. 10:00 for 10:30 Hrs start. From this date the meetings will be every 2 weeks at a location to be arranged. The subject of a mid week meeting was also discussed, watch this space.
9. **Shoe Box Parcels:** George Barrett reported that the parcels are packed and ready to send when details of the unit to send them to become available, George reported that he had received a message from Bill Rudd who said that the 2 Yorkshire branches had recently asked local businesses for donations and had managed to fill and send 150 parcels, Well done. Brian Care has received a thank you letter from L/Cpl Hearn, 21 Eng. Regt, in which he sent his gratitude to the branch on sending the parcels and that soldiers are being thought about.
10. **SA-80 Shoot 23rd May 10.** Names have already been taken for those wishing to shoot.
11. **70th Anniversary of Airborne Forces.** George Barrett informed the branch of events taking place at Merville Barracks, Colchester. This will take place on the 24th July 10 and admission will be by TICKET ONLY. There will be various attractions such as Parachuting, ABF Parade, PRA March Past, music and bar facilities. There will be NO accommodation at the Barracks so individuals will need to make their own arrangements. George will inform the branch of any further information.
12. **Dogs Night.** 14th May 10, Thanks to Mike and Sue Cole for organising this event.

13. Any Other Business:

Wendy Clarke: Wendy has sent her thanks to the branch for all those who attended her Birthday party recently.

Roger Howells: Roger has recently presented a cheque for £400.00 to a Captain of the Royal Artillery for the Help for Heroes Charity, the Captain gave a talk on how the charity was performing. This money was raised while Roger was Chairman of the Monkspath Rotary Club. Well Done.

Steve Brown. Steve has received an e-mail from Paddy Denning, ex 9sqn, 59 Sqn and 131 Sqn to appeal for sponsorship for The Kilimanjaro Challenge in September 2010. Paddy is asking the branch for sponsorship to carry out this challenge where all proceeds will go to Help for Heroes charity. Anyone wishing to contribute can do it online at www.justgiving.com/william-denning or by sponsorship form, contact Steve Brown. The branch has agreed to donate £50.00 to this cause and members also said they would make personal donations.

Steve Brown: Steve reported that he had received an e-mail from Nick Gibson to say that Major John Chappel ex 9 Sqn 1 troop Commander (Canal Zone 1952 – 54) had recently passed away and had the funeral arrangement details.

John Duckenfield: John has contacted the branch to say that the Airborne Forces weekend in Southsea, will be held on 3 / 4 July 10.

Bunny Brown: Bunny has finally had contact from ward S4 at Selly Oak Hospital and is now arranging a date to present the cheque for £1000.00.

Brian Care: Brian gave the branch some dates of interest,
26 June 10 Birmingham Armed Forces Day. Starting at 11.00 hrs with the Veteran march past at 16.00 – 16.30 hrs. Centenary Square.
29th August 10 Birmingham Federation Day with a Service at the Peace Gardens and then onto the Jury's Inn for a carvery.
19th December 10 Federation Christmas Lunch at the Jury's Inn. Details to follow.

Brian then reported that all T.A. Royal Artillery units and 2 Royal Engineer units are to be rebadged to Infantry units as there is a shortage of infantry units-

Brian then gave a comprehensive account of the difference between Troop Aid and Help for Heroes. The main points being that Troop Aid is totally run by unpaid volunteers and so all donations go to the cause but Help for Heroes is run by paid employees. Troop Aid was started by a single donation of £50.00 and has been running now for some years. Troop Aid organise grab bags which contain essentials for soldiers arriving at Hospital etc.

George Barrett: George stated that not many social events are happening and suggested that a day visit to the National Arboretum be organised this was agreed and a date set for the 17th July 10. Travel arrangements are to be discussed.

Bob Dorrell: Bob asked if there was any progress about getting the branch onto Facebook the Chairman reported that Dave Clarke had volunteered and would enquire to see at what stage this is at.

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd June 10 at the Royal British Legion, Chelmsley Wood, 1945Hrs.

13. Deadline for the August 2010 edition of the AEA JOURNAL is 12th July 10. Please don't leave it until the last moment if you want anything included.

W. Steve Brown
Secretary.



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Diary of Events

- 23rd May 10 - SA-80 Shoot v RRFs
- 2nd June 10 – Branch Meeting
- 12th June 10 – Summer Dinner
- 26th June 10 – Armed Forces Day
- 7th July 10 – Branch Meeting
- 4th August 10 – Branch Meeting
- 29th August 10 – Federation Day
- 1st September 10 – Branch Meeting

Gentlemen subs are now **DUE**. If you still wish to receive the branch minutes please pay your subs to Elsie Barrett (0121 628 7578) - 292 Brays Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 2PP, so that the mailing list can be kept up to date.

Name. _____

Telephone _____

Cheque / Cash £5.00 enclosed _____

Date _____