THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH
AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
President: Mr. George Barratt 0121 293 4174
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MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING

Held at Chelmsley Wood British Legion

7th January 2015

Members Present: K Lambeth, B Brown, Dave Bowron, A Parks, R Howles, D Yeo, K Wooolnough, P & D Clarke, S Brown, D Flynn, B Dorrell, T Higgins, H & B Potter and of course the Ladies.

Apologies from: Chris Chambers, T Bark, Maj Hooper, A Brough, Ron Mason and John Mason, M Holdsworth, B Fosbury, J Browning, R Hicks, J Hurley, G & E Barratt, E Fenwick, B Care, P Owen and E McNulty.

Minutes: Proposed as a true record of the last meeting by D Bowron & seconded by P Clarke.

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming all to the meeting, he then continued with the Loyal Toast, Airborne Prayer and absent friends.
The Chairman gave a summary of the last year:
He thanked all the Committee for the work they have done.
He stated that the Branch still had a good relationship with 131 Cdo Eng Squadron who had invited the Branch to a Curry Night earlier in the year which was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Branch have been invited to M Cloonan's retirement Party to be held at the TA Centre Barrows lane on the 7 February 2015 commencing at 8pm. (If you intend to go drop a line to Bunny).
Some of the Branch attended the 70th Anniversary of D Day in Normandy.
We also attended the Airborne Forces Day at the National Memorial Arboretum, where the weather was fine and the Buffet good.
A Table was arranged at the PRA Annual Dinner at the Royal Court Hotel, several Branch members attended and had an enjoyable weekend.
A fantastic few days was had by all who attended The 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem. A thank you to the York's Branch, and those of 299 Ass, who swelled the numbers at the to dedicate the "Bench" to Tom Carpenter and Airborne Sappers. Thanks go to Renkum Council for donating the Bench and it's site.
Thanks to the Yorkshire Branch for organising a splendid AGM Re-union in Harrogate.
A good time was had by Branch members, who attended the Freedom of Harrow Parade with 131.
A thank you to M Williams for the Donation to the Branch Fund and organizing several events at the Crown Royal British Legion, culminating in Remembrance Sunday.
Last of thanks to the Dinner Dance Committee for a splendid event.

Treasurers Report: Treasurers report accounts still healthy.

Welfare: Cath Parks as well as can be expected. R Hicks has a hip problem; C Green broke an ankle and had another to removed. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Branch Christmas Dinner Dance: One of the best for a couple of years, enjoyed by all, and a small profit made on the night. Thanks to all who supported the event, and a special thanks to the Hull contingent.

A.O.B

The Chairman again raised the point about moving our meetings from C W RBL, it was decided that this should be an AGM Item.

Cromwell Lock was raised, this year being the 40th anniversary of the tragedy, when 10 Scottish Sappers of 300 Troop 131 Parachute Squadron. Were drowned on a river exercise in

September 1975. It was thought that 131 Squadron were arranging the event, with support from ourselves, 299 Ass and the Scottish AEA.

Arnhem. A long weekend may be arranged for mid summer so Branch Members could view the Bench.

J Phillips said that the Holmes Crowd enjoyed the Christmas Dinner Dance; David Holmes hopes to join the AEA and the Branch.

It was announced that the Funeral of Harold Padfield, a veteran of the 1st Parachute Squadron RE from 1942. Also a survivor of the battle on the Bridge at Arnhem, would take place the following day (Thursday 8th January2015) The Chairman and Secretary will attend.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 4th February 2015 @ 20 00hrs Chelmsleywood British Legion.

Diary of Events

Next Meeting:	4 February 2015 at the CWRBL.
Zoom's retirement Party	7 February 8 pm barrows Lane.
AEA AGM	16-19 October Royal Court Hotel.