



Airborne Engineers Association

Chatham Branch



Secretary ~ Nick Gibson, 48 Phoenix Road, Lords Wood, Chatham, Kent, ME5 8TA.
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MINUTES OF 157th O.G.M IN THE WO'S & SGT'S MESS BROMPTON BARRACKS 15th June 2009

Committee Members

Chairman	~	Bob Matthews	*
Secretary	~	Nick Gibson	*
Treasurer	~	Peter Kershaw	*
Welfare	~	Keith King	*

* These Committee Members were in attendance

1. Members Present

Bob Woolley	Bill Shield	Eric Blenkinsop	Bob Seaman
John O'Conner	Jim Rogers		

2. Apologies

John Elliott	Don Lay	Mick Fisher
Eric Blenkinsop	Bill Perry	Ben Taverner

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Proposed ~ Keith King
Seconded ~ John O'Conner Carried

4. Matters Arising

Nil

5. Chairman's Report

Chairman informed the branch that Tony Roberts has taken over as Association welfare officer. Association is to donate £200 to the Cyprus Memorial Trust who intends to place a memorial to the 371 British soldiers who fell in Cyprus from 1955-59. One of those was an airborne Sapper John 'Chopper' Brown.
Billy Morris and Bob Chatterton have raised over £4100 towards Help for Heroes as a result of their run from Aldershot to Woodbridge.
AGM in Nottingham planning is going well anyone wishing to attend should book as early as possible.

6. Secretary's Report

Circulated other branch minutes.
Circulated correspondence received concerning the Armed Forces Day at Chatham Dockyard

7. Treasurers Report

As at 18th May 2009

Cash at bank on 15 th June 2009	£1586.39
Cash in Hand on 15 th June 2009	£178.73
Petty Cash	£29.01
Outgoings	£0
Cash Committed to John Rock Dinner	-£1081.00
Cash available to Branch	£ 713.13

NB so far 30 members have renewed their Membership

Treasurer asked for guidance for gratuities for kitchen staff at Rock dinner – will set off £30

Proposed ~ Jim Rogers

Seconded ~ John O'Conner

Carried

8. Welfare Report

Branch unanimously offered expression of thanks to Keith for his efforts helping us whilst he was incapacitated

9. Museums and Archives

Nick reported that the Duxford Airborne Forces Museum was very well presented but little sapper specific focus. Association & members could not expect to see items donated to be on display & should be careful when considering donations. The museum is well worth a visit and will look into organising a visit in the future.

10. Branch Events

- a. John Rock Dinner branch will fund presentation of flowers to wives of Guests of Honour agreed £30 to be spent. Pam will run the raffle – please bring appropriate prize. 19:00hrs to be seated by 20:00hrs
- b. BBQ Sun August 2nd Performa attached please return by 27th July 09. Invitation will be extended to Maidstone PRA as courtesy
- c. Branch Xmas Dinner set for 6th December.

11. Any Other Business

- a. Reminder that branch yearly subscriptions are overdue. Price is £6.00
NB this is the last set of minutes that will be sent to members who haven't renewed.
- b. Nick reported that Smokey's ashes were scattered at Jukes Bridge in Bures Normandy and a plaque will be affixed to the side of the Memorial permanently.
- c. Peter Kershaw reported that the bench has been permanently fixed in place in the Memorial Pegasus in Normandy
- d. Branch will be able to provide a wheelchair at the Rock Dinner for Freda Perry

12. Next Meeting

Next meeting 20th July 2009

13. Post Scriptum

The branch received a letter from Usche Farrow thanking us for the hanging basket we sent and thanking Jim and Keith for their efforts whilst she was incapacitated recently

Branch Diary

John Rock Annual Dinner	20 June 2009	King Charles Hotel
Armed Forces/Veterans Day	27 June 2009	Chatham Dockyard/ Rock Bks
John Grosvenor Thanksgiving	14 July 2009	St Marks Church Broadwater Down
Branch OGM	20 July 2009	RE HQ WO's & Sgts Mess
Branch BBQ	02 August 2009	WO's & Sgts Mess Invicta Bks Maidstone
Branch OGM	17 August 2009	RE HQ WO's & Sgts Mess
Double Hills Ceremony	6 September 2009	Double Hills
Branch OGM	21 September 2009	RE HQ WO's & Sgts Mess
Branch OGM	19 October 2009	RE HQ WO's & Sgts Mess
Branch OGM	16 November 2009	RE HQ WO's & Sgts Mess
Branch Xmas Lunch	06 December 2009	King Charles Hotel