



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Mick Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig Mc Quade**

Minutes of Ordinary General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion , Rodney Street, Edinburgh , EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 15th March 2015

- 1. Members Present;** Frank Murray, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Gordon McLeod, Alex McWhirter, John Donaldson, Andy Gemmell, Kim Panton, Bob Hamilton, Norrie Bishop and Kenneth Wratten.
- 2. Apologies;** Mick Walker, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoghann maclachlainn, Eoin McIntyre, Dave Henderson, Andy Paterson, Andy Mullen, David Brock, Ron McCartan, Ronnie Drummond, Roy Kay, Dougie Archibald and all overseas members.
- 3. Chairmans Welcome;** Mick Walker was unable to attend so Frank Murray, at short notice, agreed to Chair the meeting. Frank welcomed all who attended and then asked us to be upstanding for a minutes silence, whilst we remembered the personnel who have given their lives whilst serving in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as our own past members.
- 4. Welfare Report;** Roy Kay has to go back into hospital regarding his eyesight. Craig Mc Quade has had an operation on his leg (tendon problems) he is now out of hospital and we are pleased to see him in attendance today. Andy Mullen is still experiencing problems with his leg.
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting;** The minutes of the last meeting were proposed as being accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by John Donaldson.
- 6. Matters Arising;** There were no matters arising
- 7. Secretary's Report;** (a) **Cromwell Lock** -- 40th Anniversary Memorial Service—John Lee (AEA President) is the point of contact between AEA and 131 who are hoping to send a contingent for the ceremony and he will keep us posted with any further news. In the meantime Mick Walker has been in contact with Olaf Dudley who advised us that there are as yet no formal plans for this anniversary. He is trying to guide the O/C and 2 i/c to have a memorial parade at Cromwell Lock on the Sunday. Mick advised Olaf that he should be regarded as the Scottish based contact and we will not weigh in without alerting him first. Could any members wishing to attend this commemoration and staying overnight on the Saturday and Sunday give us a firm commitment at our May meeting (17/05/15). They will benefit from the support discussed at our January meeting and Mick can then proceed with travel and accommodation arrangements. Mick is actively pursuing National Lottery support.
(b) **Annual Muster and Memorial Day Parade-Sunday 26th April 2015-The Abbey Church, Dunfermline**

- 1.00 1100hrs – Service Commences
 - 2.00 1200/1245 hrs—Form up for Parade at Pittencreiff Museum.
 - 3.00 1300 hrs – Parade Commences – Blue Route
 - 4.00 1330 hrs—Parade Dismiss—Move into Pavilion for Reception followed by lunch
Greeting parties from PRA Scotland meet and greet in Pavilion Atrium.
 - 5.00 1345 hrs –Welcome Speeches , Luncheon , Tullis Russell Swing Band entertain.
 - 6.00 1600 hrs –Final Speech before departure.
- (c) Armed Forces Day Parade** –Sunday 28th June 2015—Aberdeen—Final details will be available at our next meeting (Sunday 17th May)
- (d) Cenotaph Parade** –London -8th November 2015—submit names to Gil Nicol

8. **Treasures Report;** Craig Mc Quade presented a verbal report and it is nice to see that we are still in a healthy financial situation. The report was unanimously accepted as correct.

9. **Website Report;** John Donaldson informed us that all is reasonably well, we are still getting good interest in our website.

10. **Future Meetings;** All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, every 2nd month, starting from and including January 2015.
Meetings will commence at 1300 hours.

11. **A.O.C.B.; (a) Al Milah, Aden 1965**—This is the 50th anniversary of the attack on Al Milah Camp when both SSM John F Lonergan, 300 Para Sqn. RE., and Sgt.Cyril J Atfield, Royal Army Pay Corps were killed in action. Both are buried in Maala Cemetery, Aden. General Sir Peter Wall GCB CBE ADC Gen (Retd) has arranged for wreaths to be laid on the graves of WO2 John F Lonergan and Sgt Cyril J Atfield on 12th April 2015.

Subsequently it was agreed that we, as a branch, meet up on the same date (12/4/2015) --1300Hrs at The Guards Club in Edinburgh, where we will raise a glass or two in memory of these two fine gentlemen. Dress code is optional either collar & tie or casual but smart. There will be 3 or 4 Officers in attendance.

(b) TA Centre Renaming—Dudley Olaf has been in contact with Mick Walker and has advised him that he has verbal agreement from The Chief Exec.of whoever is in charge of the barracks, that Honeypot Lane can be renamed after John Lonergan, although 3 weeks have passed and he is still awaiting written confirmation. He will inform us if and when there is to be any ceremony as Mick said that we would like to be represented. Mick also stated that he would contact Frank Murray on the matter so that he can obtain an update.

Frank has since spoken to Olaf Dudley who informed him that agreement has been reached and confirmed, further details to follow.

(c) “The Doakses”—Andy Gemmell has been in contact with George Doaks, who is recovering from a knee injury, George informed Andy that his two brothers, who both served in 3 Troop, had sadly passed away. Andy also informed him about the AEA Scotland meetings and also the meeting at The Guards Club re Al Milah, Aden. George will contact A. McKeown and they will try to attend. George also informed us that Alex Herd (Ex 3 Troop) had also passed away.

The meeting was brought to a close at 1400 hrs with a vote of thanks to Frank Murray for standing in for Mick Walker, at short notice, after which we adjourned to the main hall and had some refreshments.

12. **Date of Next Meeting;**
Sunday 17th May 2015 (1300 Hrs) at The Royal.British.Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh.