



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Chairman – Douglas Archibald

Secretary – Gil Nicol

Treasurer – Craig Mc Quade

Minutes of 20th Annual General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4EL at 1230hrs on Sunday 18 November 2018.

1. Members Present; Douglas Archibald, Gil Nicol, Mick Walker, John Donaldson, Alex Mc Whirter, Bob Hamilton, Brian Earl, Gordon McLeod, Ronnie Drummond, Norrie Bishop, Bob Masson, Andy Gemmell, Andy Paterson, Kenneth Wratten, Ron McCartan, David Henderson and John Carter

2. Apologies; Craig McQuade, Andy Mullen, Alex Cockburn, Kim Panton, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoin McIntyre, Eoghann Maclachlainn and all overseas members.

3. Chairmans Welcome; Douglas Archibald welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this our 20th Annual General Meeting. He also welcomed our new member John Carter. Dougie asked that we all stand for a minutes silence in remembrance of all members who have passed on.

“We will remember them”

4. Chairman’s Report; Douglas reminded us that this is our 20th Annual General Meeting He then recalled all the events that we as a branch attended over the last year ;
Armed Forces Day, Edinburgh — Memorial Service for Scott Wilson, a 9 Sqn member who was killed at Mount Longdon, Falkland Islands. — AEA Scotland Lunch held at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh.— Remembrance Service held at Zetland Park, Grangemouth in memory of the 10 Sappers who lost their lives at Cromwell Lock whilst participating in”Operation Trent Chase” in 1975 — Old Comrades Dinner held at XV Para HQ in Glasgow—Field of Remembrance Service held at Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh—AEA Annual General Meeting held at Chatham —The Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance hosted by PRA Lothian Branch held at RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh —A presentation by Lt Col. Chris Warhurst, on the current role played by sappers in to-days Army —A presentation on the findings regarding the loss of life at Kiel Canal, Germany in 1972.

Douglas thanked everyone for their attendance at all these events

He also informed us that we corrected a report in The Journal where it stated that a few members turned out for the memorial service for Scott Wilson when in fact 10 members turned out which is more than a few. He also commented on John Donaldson's fine effort regarding the awarding of the General Service Medal 62 with Clasp South Arabia but there will be more coverage in A.O.C.B.

Douglas was pleased to see that we had sent a cheque to The Canals & Rivers Trust to assist with the upkeep of the memorial and garden area at Cromwell Lock

Douglas then presented Ronnie Drummond with his Presidents Commendation Certificate and lapel badge awarded for his long and continuous support of our branch. It should be noted that Ronnie Drummond is a Korean War Veteran and is a very worthy recipient of this award.

5. Welfare; We still have a number of our members suffering from various ailments, namely Kim Panton, Ron McCartan, Andy Mullen and Alex Cockburn (He is looking after his wife Beth, who has just recently had both hip joints replaced)—We wish them all well However, it was good to see Ron McCartan able to attend today's meeting.

6. Minutes of the previous meeting-OGM 16 September 2018; The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Brian Earl and seconded by Gordon McLeod.

7. Matters Arising; No matters arising.

8. Minutes of Previous AGM 19 November 2017;-The minutes of the previous AGM were passed as accurate by John Donaldson and seconded by Andy Paterson.

9. Secretary's Report; (a) 29th AEA - AGM & Reunion Gala Dinner – Friday 12 - Sunday 14 October 2018—This event was held at Chatham—as far as we know only one member, Kenneth Wratten, was in attendance.

(b) Cromwell Lock Memorial Parade, Zetland Park, Grangemouth—This was held on Sunday 23 September 2018 at 1030hrs for 1100 hrs at Zetland Park, Grangemouth. After the service we retired to The British Legion Club, 4 Dundas Street, Grangemouth where we had refreshments and sandwiches. This was very well attended by AEA Scotland, RBL Grangemouth, PRA Lothian Branch and various independents. Standards were also on parade.

(c) Erskine Homes — We received the recent News Letter

(d) Leuchars Station —This was formerly RAF Leuchars and is now home to the Royal Engineers as well as other Regiments. Norrie Bishop and Gil Nicol will look at arranging a visit in 2019.

10. Treasurer's Report; - Although our Treasurer was not in attendance, still abroad celebrating his 50th year Wedding Anniversary, Bob Hamilton (Auditor) gave us a detailed account of our finances and we are still healthy. Bob also commented favourably on the accuracy, detail and presentation of our Finance Report.

11. Webmaster's Report; John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are still receiving hits. He is still updating our website on a regular basis. There is a small increase in cost for this service and it was agreed, unanimously, that we accept this increase.

12. Election of Office Bearers; The following Office Bearers were elected.

Chairman - Gordon McLeod—Proposed by Douglas Archibald and seconded by Gil Nicol.

Secretary - Gil Nicol -----Proposed by Gordon McLeod and seconded by Brian Earl.

Treasurer - Craig Mc Quade---Proposed by Douglas Archibald and seconded by Gil Nicol.

Auditor — Bob Hamilton -----Proposed by Mick Walker and seconded by David Henderson.

Other positions were filled as follows;

Webmaster - John Donaldson.

Branch Rep. No 1—Gordon McLeod.

Branch Rep. No 2---Andy Paterson .

13. Annual Subscriptions; It was agreed that we keep our annual subscriptions at £10.0 person and this money to be collected after the meeting.

Those members who have still to pay please forward monies to the following ;

Craig Mc Quade

37 Riverview Park

Mangerton

Newcastleton

TD9 TF

All cheques should be made payable to “**The Airborne Engineers Association**”

14. Future Meetings; All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, every 2nd Month, commencing from 20 January 2019. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs with the exception of the AGM which will commence at 1230hrs.

15. A.O.C.B; (a) OCA Dinner—Four members attended The Old Comrades Association Dinner on 20 October 2018 held at XV Para ,Holdswourth Street, Glasgow.

(b) PRA Lothian Branch—Will be holding their annual Christmas Dinner and Dance on Friday 7 December 2018 at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh. Ticket prices are expected be the same as last year. Those interested in attending have already purchased tickets.

(c) Garden of Remembrance Edinburgh — A few members attended the opening service at Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh on Monday 29 October 2018.

(d) General Service Medal (Aden); John Donaldson submitted the following report:-

Following a letter from Lord Howe, Ministry of Defence, to Angus MacNeil MP to say that those who were killed and wounded at Al Milah on 12 April 1965, **ought** to receive medallic recognition, the MOD Medal Office informed John that former Captain Eoghann Maclachlainn’s GSM had been sent to his Edinburgh address on 8 November 2018. They also requested that John contact the late WO2 John Lonergan's family in Canada and the late Sergeant George Gibson Earls family, also in Canada, that they would also receive GSM on completion of the medal claim forms. John has contacted both families and requested that they complete the forms and return them to the MOD. Mrs Earl was also requested to send them her late husbands Death Certificate. On receipt of the forms the medals would immediately be sent to them.

It was acknowledged by all members present that John Donaldson's contribution towards the awarding of the GSM was exceptional and he was applauded accordingly.

Watch this space as there is more to come.

(e) Presentation of GSM. On 16 November 2018 John Donaldson presented himself at Edinburgh Castle. He spoke with the Governor’s P.A., Linda Lyness, explained to her the situation, and asked her if it would be possible to have former Captain Eoghann Maclachlainn's GSM presented to him at the castle. She informed John that she would speak to Captain Lawrence Wotherspoon and get back to him. John handed over to her his account of what had occurred at Al Milah and a copy of the e-mails sent to him by the MOD Medal Office. Later that afternoon Captain Wotherspoon telephoned John to say that the Governor of Edinburgh Castle, Major General Michael Lawrence Riddell - Webster CBE DSO had agreed that the medal could be presented at the castle and that the Governor would make the presentation himself. John did not expect that. John was of the opinion that after waiting 53 years for this medal it should not just be dropped through Eoghann's letterbox.

It was agreed that the presentation would take place at Edinburgh Castle at 1300 hours on Sunday 16 December 2018. John also made arrangement for Eoghann's GSM to be court mounted for the presentation. Over and above Eoghann's family and some members of the Scottish Branch, Angus MacNeil MP will also attend the presentation.

(f) Mrs Pat Norman—On or about 22 October 2018, Pat Norman contacted Dave Pace via the AEA Website. She explained to Dave that her late husband Douglas, had served with the Airborne Engineers in Edinburgh in the late fifties and emigrated to Canada in 1965. She said she had misplaced Douglas's beret, cap badge and blazer badge and wondered if she could get replacements. Dave contacted our branch and John Donaldson informed Dave that he served with Douglas in 2 Troop 300 Para Sqn and that he would contact Pat and send her what she had requested, apart from the blazer badge as John didn't know which blazer badge it was. John contacted Dave Henderson and Dougie Archibald to see if they could get a copy of the 300 Para Sqn blazer badge Dave had designed, however, an e-mail from Pat said she had found the blazer badge. On 2 November 2018 John dispatched the beret, cap badge and a para/wings pin to Pat, unfortunately because of a postal strike, Pats parcel has not yet been delivered. John contacted Vic Murray, a former member of 2 Troop who resides in Vancouver, and who was very friendly with Douglas Norman, and has put him in touch with Pat, who is only a 3 hour drive away. Pats delighted with the outcome. Douglas Norman passed away on 9 November 2005. He has been included on our Roll of Honour.

(g) Arnhem 2019 (75th Anniversary.) Mick Walker reminded members that next year is the 75th Anniversary of "Operation Market Garden" and if we want to organise something we should get moving now. According to other branch minutes they are already well organised. If we do not have too many members willing to go to Arnhem then maybe we could attach ourselves to other branches e.g., 229, Yorkshire or Birmingham. It was agreed that we contact PRA Lothian to see if they have places available. Contact will also be made to other branches and other options.

The meeting was brought to a close and everyone expressed their appreciation of Douglas Archibald's time as Chairman.

16. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 20 January 2019, (1300hrs) at R.B.L. Rodney Street, Edinburgh.