



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Douglas Archibald**

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 15 January 2017.**

1. **Members Present;**

Doug Archibald, Gil Nicol, Mick Walker, Frank Murray, John Donaldson, Gordon McLeod, Raymond Mannion, Alex Cockburn, Eoghann maclachlainn, Brian Earl, Alex McWhirter, Bob Masson, David Henderson, Norrie Bishop and Ronnie Drummond.

2. **Apologies;**

Kim Panton, Andy Paterson, Craig McQuade, Bob Hamilton, Andy Mullen, Andy Gemmell, Ron McCartan, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, David Brock, Eoin McIntyre and all overseas members.

3. **Chairmans Welcome;**

Doug Archibald welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He also wished all our members a Happy New Year

4. **Welfare;**

- (a) John Donaldson is getting treatment for his eyes, he has macular degeneration of his right eye.
- (b) Kim Panton has broken his arm
- (c) Alex McWhirter has had an operation on his right arm
- (d) Brian Earl had suffered a stroke late last year and it is good to see him at todays meeting
- (e) Raymond Mannion has been unwell recently and it is also good to see him at todays meeting.
- (f) Gil Nicol is recovering well from his surgery
- (g) Craig McQuade's wife, Kathy, is recovering from her Radiotherapy sessions.

We wish them all a speedy recovery

5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting;** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by David Henderson.

6. **Matters Arising;** No matters arising

7. Secretary's Report;

(a) **Gil Nicol** thanked Mick Walker for deputising for him at last years A.G.M.

(b) **AEA Scotland Lunch;** The annual lunch will be held on Saturday 2 September 2017, at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh. Names to be given, as well as a non-refundable deposit (£5.00 per head), to Gil Nicol no later than our March meeting. Full price (Approx.£25.00 per head) to be paid no later than our July meeting.

(c) **AEA Scotland Office Bearers;** Gil Nicol has notified AEA Central of the new Office Bearers.

8. Treasurer's Report;

Gil Nicol informed the members present that we are still in a healthy financial position even although we have had a busy year.

9. Website Report;

John Donaldson informs us that all is well with our website and we are still attracting visitors.

10. Future Meetings;

All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, every 2nd month, starting from and including January 2017. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs.

11. A.O.C.B;

- (a) **Aden 1965; G.S.M;** John Donaldson is still awaiting replies from Prime Minister Theresa May and Chief of the General Staff, regarding the award of the General Service Medal with Clasp South Arabia for those who served at Al Milah, Radfan. Eoghann maclachlainn is in the process of submitting his claim for the medal to which he is entitled, under Special Army Orders of 25 July 1966.
- (b) **Rab Cruickshank;** On Wednesday 11 January 2017, some members attended the funeral of Rab Cruickshank of The Falkirk Sappers. Although Rab was not "Airborne" he, along with others, was instrumental in organising the erection of the granite memorial stone that lies in Zetland Park, Grangemouth, in memory of the 10 sappers who were killed whilst participating in "Operation Trent Chase" in 1975. We had 3 former 9 Sqn members and 5 former 131 members in attendance.
- (c) **Cromwell Lock;** Frank Murray, at our AGM last year, proposed we pay for a piper and bugler to be in attendance at our memorial service in September 2017, at Zetland Park, Grangemouth, in memory of the 10 sappers who were killed in 1975. Gil Nicol and Alex Cockburn will look into this matter along with Mick Walker, who will contact John Ferry.
- (d) **Frank Murray** has written to the Lonergan Family and informed them they are entitled to claim John Lonergan's General Service Medal with Clasp South Arabia.
- (e) **70th Anniversary;** This year is the 70th Anniversary of the formation of 131 Para. Engr. Regt. There may be celebrations later in the year to commemorate this event—details T.B.C.
- (f) **Eoghann maclachlainn** asked if it would be possible to invite members of 131 Commando Engineers to a day out at The Falkirk Wheel. General opinion was this may not be feasible due to the commitment that 131 Commando Engr. have on at the moment.
- (g) **Gil Nicol** is looking into when 300 Squadron was formed and will report back at the next meeting.
- (h) **WW2 Battlefield Tours;** Mick Walker informed everyone that Ledger Holidays are doing various battlefield tours and anyone interested should look them up on their website.

N.B.Anyone wishing to contact Army Service Records please use the following details ;
Army Service Records
0345-600-9663
Disclosures (Option 3)
Email address; apc-sp-disclosures2@mod.uk

Postal Address:
Army Personnel Centre
Disclosures 2
Kentigern House
65 Brown Street
Glasgow
G2 8EX

The meeting was brought to a close and the chair was thanked.

**Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 19 March 2017 (1300hrs) at Royal British Legion,
Rodney Street, Edinburgh .**