



**THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH
AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**

President: Mr. Tom Carpenter 0121 779 3488
Chairman: Mr. Bunny Brown 0121 770 1880
Secretary: Mr. Steve Brown 0121 251 6881
Mobile 07882843958
E-mail: stevebrown4@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Mrs Elsie Barrett 0121 628 7578
Membership Secretary: Mr. George Barrett 0121 628 7578



MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING

**Held at Chelmsley Wood British Legion
2nd November 11**

1. **Meeting opened** at 20:00 hrs.
2. **Members Present:**, Tom Carpenter, Bunny Brown, Steve Brown, George Hopkins, George Barrett, Ian Hendry, Rip Kirby, Jim Hurley, Roger Howells, Bob Dorrell, Dave Bowron, Gordon Page, Brian Fosbury, Brian Care, Tony Higgins, Kev Lambeth, Mike Holdsworth, Al Parkes, John Phillips, Bob Potter, Harry Potter, and of course the Ladies.
3. **Apologies from:** Neville Collins, Eddie Fenwick, Peter Pedersen, Mac Nash, John Browning, Danny Flynn, Ron Mason and John Mason.
4. The **Chair** thanked all for attending and especially those members that we have not seen for a while.
5. **Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were read and voted as correct and true. Proposed by, Bob Dorrell. Seconded by, Dave Bowron. Carried. Minutes from other branches were made available.
6. **Welfare:** It is with sad regret that we have to report that Bob Jones passed away on the 24th October 11. His funeral was held on the 4th November 11 at Yardley Cemetery. There was a good turnout from the branch, PRA and the Arnhem standard was paraded by Kev Lambeth along with PRA standard and another four standards.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Funds are healthy at present.
8. **Branch Christmas Dinner.** 3rd December 2011 at the Holiday Inn, Elmdon. Roger reported that the price per person will remain at £27.50. The OC 299 Sqn RE Major Chris Wilcox and the Ex OC of 131 Sqn RE Major Andy Tustin will be present. Rooms will be £50 per room. Please order you tickets in plenty of time as they are going very quickly. Proforma below. Please bring along items for the raffle, wrapped if possible.
9. **Boots and Beer Club:** Next meeting Sunday 6th November 2011. Meeting at the Red Lion, Hopwas. 10:00hrs for 10:30hrs move.
10. **Shoe Box Parcels:** Brian and Pat Care have sent another 15. George and Elsie Barrett have 20 to send. **Note** if anyone intends to send parcels they are asked to place senders name on parcel to avoid it being treated as unsolicited mail.
11. **Veterans Badges.** Application Forms are now available through the branch.
12. **Remembrance Parade.** Bunny Brown reported that tickets have now been taken. Members that are attending are Tom Carpenter, John Phillips, Kev Lambeth, George Barrett, Elsie Barrett and Dot Parkes.
13. **Move to Shard End British Legion.** Proposed move of branch meetings. Tony Higgins reported that this appeared to be a good venue to move to as there was a good facilities and cheaper drinks etc. Tony proposed that the branch should hold a branch meeting there to trial the venue. It was proposed that the January 12 meeting be held there. The Shard End British Legion also known as the Crown is located in Hurst Lane, Shard End, Birmingham.

- 14. Bunny Brown.** Bunny reported that the cost of the proposed standard has been donated by Ray Sands to the branch. A big thank you to Ray for this generous gift.
- 15. AEA AGM.** Bunny Brown reported that once again this event was a great success and very well attended special thanks went to Al Parkes who volunteered as driver for the day, Jan Brown and Wendy Clarke who ran a successful raffle and Dave Clarke who ran the administration. Thanks to all.
- 16. Any Other Business:**
- a. **Bob Dorrell.** Reported that his son has now raised in excess of £4000 for his charity trek, Bunny reminded Bob that the St Georges party next year will be to raise funds for his son also.
 - b. **Terry Disley.** Terry has contacted the branch to say that he had been in Contact with Bob Gravenor who sends his regards.
 - c. **John Phillips.** John passed his and the branches thanks to Bunny for arranging the AEA dinner in Coventry.
 - d. **Bunny Brown.** Bunny reported that he has managed to secure a deal with a photo reproducer who can get framed enlargements of photos for the branch at "half price". The photo can be a postcard size or from digital source and will be enlarged to a 19" X 14" framed pictures on canvas for approximately £15. Look on line at www.canvasbuddy. Or www.acepotraits.
 - e. **Steve Brown.** Happy Birthday to Dave Bowron for his 60th Birthday on the 14th November 11.
- 17. Mr Al Sutton - Troop Aid.** Al Sutton attended the meeting to give a presentation on how Troop Aid was established and how it was progressing. Basically Troop Aid was started from a £50 donation which was used to purchase a minibus full of Cadburys chocolate and also received the £50 returned from Cadburys. The grab bags now in use contain basic essentials to returning injured soldiers at the point of return or place of departure. Items contained in the grab bags are items such as track suit, trainers, tooth brush, soap etc. The injured soldiers also receive a mobile phone so that they contact family and loved ones. Troop Aid now costs approximately £150,000 a year to run and is run by Al Sutton and his wife along with some volunteers who receive NO salary what so ever. Troop Aid can also boast that Prince Charles is the Patron of the charity. The branch held a whip round at the meeting and managed to raise well over £100 from the members present.
- 18. Please Note.** Closing **date for** Items to be included in the **DECEMBER** issue of the Journal is **Correction** on previous date it should be **MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2011** not 14th November.
- 19. Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th December 11** at the Royal British Legion, Chelmsley Wood, 1945 Hrs.

W. Steve Brown
Secretary.

Diary of Events

- 3rd December 11 – Branch Christmas Dinner
- 7th December 11 – Branch Meeting

