



# Airborne Engineers Association

Chatham Branch



Secretary ~ Nick Gibson, 48 Phoenix Road, Lords Wood, Chatham, Kent, ME5 8TA.  
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## MINUTES OF 157<sup>th</sup> O.G.M IN THE WO'S & SGT'S MESS BROMPTON BARRACKS 15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Cash at bank on 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	£1586.39
Cash in Hand on 15 <sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Perma attached please return by 27<sup>th</sup> July 09. Invitation will be extended to Maidstone PRA as courtesy
- c. Branch Xmas Dinner set for 6<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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