



Military Survey (Geographic) Branch

A member of the
Royal Engineers Association



MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING held at the WOs' & Sgts' Mess, Hermitage, at 1900hrs 1st August, 2017

In Attendance:

Chairman:	Mark Burrows
Treasurer:	Ted Davies
Editor:	Noel Grimmett
Secretary/Welfare:	Rod Siggs
Function Coordinator:	Mick Perry
Webmaster:	Dave Johnson
Facebook Coordinator:	Colin Gardiner

1. **Welcome and introduction** - The Chairman welcomed all those present and said that unfortunately WO1 (SMI) Jon Willey had tendered his apologies. He then told the committee that Lt Col Nicky Bell had gained promotion – the first female to gain the rank of Colonel in the Corps - and that her replacement was Lt Col Paul Hammett.

2. **Matters arising from previous Committee meeting –**

Matters arising from the previous meeting dated 11th May 2017 are as follows:-

a. **Mil Svy Archive Project** - Dave had informed the previous meeting that there were a further three photo albums to go through and hoped this would result in approximately 4000 photos in the archive. Jon was asked to approach the Regiment for articles with photos showing current "Life in the Regt".

Dave was asked to produce a draft for the newsletter, in simple layman's terms, about the format that was suitable to receive photos in to save work and ensure the best reproductions possible. This again led to some discussion and it was agreed that the 300 Dpi was possibly the only resolution that was likely to be received and was only ever likely to be reproduced (currently) on PCs.

Discussion had ensued about the involvement of Alan Gordon's role to date with helping to set up the Archive and it was agreed that Alan should also receive a financial award of £500.00 from the Branch in recognition of this work. (Both the cheque, and a covering letter, were signed by Mark for immediate posting to Alan after the meeting.)

b. **AOB** – In the previous meeting Mark had raised some ideas reference Aims and Objectives he thought we should, as a committee, aim for. As he had to leave the meeting prematurely he had then forwarded the Secretary some expanded thoughts on these points that he wished to discuss which were written into the minutes. This is an agenda point at this meeting.

c. **Travel Claim** - Mike Payne had indicated that he would submit a travel claim in respect of attending Dave Winship's funeral with our Standard. There followed some discussion because Dave was not a member of the Branch although it was likely he was a Life Member of the REA due to the "Day's Pay Scheme".

Action: RS to contact HQ REA for

clarification.

3. Current Statement of the Account - Ted presented the Branches worth as at 31st July 2017:

Current a/c	£5785.25	(£5963.09)	
Savings a/c	£4628.25	(£4,628.61)	
Total:		£10313.94	(£10820.26)
Cheques to clear		£Nil	
Geo Support Fund	£923.13	(£923.13)	

Ted also included a Liabilities section which showed the following:

Liabilities;

Functions	£500	
Reunion/AGM	Invoice not received	
Administration	£1000	- remaining £456.48
Newsletter No 62	£255.78	
Newsletter No 63	£287.74	
Annual Award	£150	– remaining £0.00
Awarded to Cpl Greene		
Geo 0-2 Cse Awards	£200	– remaining £100.00
Cse 37	£50 (Cheque)	
Cse 38	£50 (Spr Shop Voucher Invoice not received)	

Subscriptions received thus far in 2017 **£2040**

4. **Facebook Update** – Colin gave the committee an update how progress was being made with the FB page which is up and running. He said that he would like to attach some bits from the REA onto our site and he described the various categories of membership. He said that there were two more possible members of the Admin Team willing to assist – Al York and Daz Smith who are believed to be still serving. Good news! It was hoped that the Regt would publish the existence of the FB page on their Pt 2 Orders.

5. **Military Update** – WO1 Jon Willey although absent had furnished the Secretary with his notes which were as usual very comprehensive:-

As at Jul 2017 the **Regt** was involved in –
9 Overseas & UK Exercise Support 0+16
Operational Sp covering % Ops areas 1+16
Standing commitments 3+12
Force Elements at “readiness” ranging from 1 hr – 30 days for 10 commitments plus Vanguard 4+72.

Jon also gave a list of notable events and achievements including sporting where a JNCO was selected to represent the Corps at the Army Inter-Corps Championships.

RSMS – Mr Chris Symonds is now the new Principal Lecturer and the students and staff had taken part in Adventure Training at Tenby. Activities included paragliding; sea fishing (where Jon caught the largest fish); coastal walking; mountain biking; rock climbing and cultural days out.

Jon warned that the next ME Course 0-2 Graduation would be held on 18 August to which a Branch Representative would be required to make the award of the Spr Shop Voucher to the Soldiers' Soldier.

Action: RS email NG

Mess – In June a number of the Station WO's travelled to Normandy for a 2 day battlefield tour.

The new Station RSM, WO1 Rich Jefferies, was dined into the Mess.

The Summer Ball was held on 15th July with a theme of Mess Festival.

The ceremony of Beating Retreat was held on 19 July.

Mick suggested that in future we ought to invite the Station RSM to our events, possibly the Christmas dinner and certainly the AGM so as to meet all the Branch Committee Members. All agreed.

6. Editors Update – Noel informed the Committee that the next newsletter was ready to go out and that he had received some good articles from the Regt and RSMS.

7. Web-site Update – Dave handed out an update on the use or visits to the website over the period 30 April – 31 July which indicated there had been 19,407 visits during this period, demonstrating it is as popular as ever. He said that he suggested that the "memories" now be incorporated into the Mil Svy Archive with the respective headings.

8. Military Survey Archive Project – Dave told the committee that he believed they could see "light at the end of the tunnel" with regard the photos and he was now working on the "memories" from the website.

9. Chairman Aims & Objectives – Mark opened this agenda subject by telling the committee that he had trawled other Associations and the Regiment's 2i/c for ideas and he felt very strongly that we needed a continuity program, otherwise the organization would gradually die. He felt that we needed greater engagement with Military Survey Units, both military and civilian, and that we needed to promote ourselves.

There followed in depth discussions during which it was stated that unfortunately we were all (or mostly all) retirees, aims and objectives had been tried before and after a number of years it was realized it was not working and had put many members off participating. However, it was perfectly acceptable and right to have and develop a 5 year vision as to where we would like to be and all agreed that planning for succession was a definite requirement.

Jon had made a very good suggestion that fitted in nicely with much of the above – suggesting that a day be organized for our members to spend a day/afternoon shadowing the 2-1s Geo technician course. This could include demonstrations on the in-service equipment and software, a ground brief displaying types of products that are now requested and available and possibly eating in their mess and a tour around their accommodation. It was then agreed that perhaps this idea but with the WO's course might be more suitable.

Action: Jon is asked to provide some dates for consideration.

Mick said that although it's too late for the 2018 AGM perhaps the next one could be held at one of the other Geo units as had been done a few years back, and he reminded everyone, that the committee had a civilian rep from Feltham who attended the meetings which kept us all abreast of what was happening at DGC and kept them abreast of certain military affairs.

Mark said perhaps the FB site could publish situations vacant so that members and firms might create more interaction with us.

Rod said that the 2i/c of 135 Sqn was very keen for more interaction with us (being a Branch member) and had already put on their Pt 2 Orders how to join the Branch.

Mark said he would put some thought together about a Vision for the committees

consideration.

Action: MB

10. AOB – Mick said that he hoped to announce the date of the next AGM in the next newsletter therefore the date of the next meeting was important in order it corresponded before that publication.

Date of next meeting – The date for the next meeting was agreed for Tuesday 26th September 2017 at the normal venue and time..

RB Siggs signed: *R.B. Siggs*
Honorary Secretary
Military Survey (Geographic) Branch REA
AP Cross signed:
Chairman
Military Survey (Geographic) Branch REA