**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING (25)**

**YEOVIL AND DISTICT BRANCH RBL (BR2555)**

**HELD AT 1900 ON 31 AUG 23**

1. ACT OF REMEMBRANCE BY THE CHAIRMAN

2. CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all those present. He thanked the Secretary for arranging the use of Yeovil the Rugby Club for tonight’s meeting.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Le Hardy (Hon President), Simon Woodrow (Chairman), Tim Tatler (Joint Vice-Chairman), Roger Law (Member) and John Emery (Secretary).

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Andy Kendal (Treasurer).

5. MINUTES OF MEETING 24

Copies of this meeting had been distributed and copies were made available to all present. It was agreed by all present that they were a true and accurate record of that meeting. The minutes were then signed off by the Chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING

Item 10: A Cheque for £1000 had been issued for the manufacture of Tommy Silhouettes.

Item 13: Cheque for £350 had yet to be issued to YESS Club for Remembrance Day Buffet due to Treasurers current incapacity.

Item 14: After much discussion it was decided that as Taunton’s Armed Forces Day covers the whole of Somerset there was not a need for Yeovil to hold its own day, however it was intended for Yeovil Branch Standard to be paraded at Taunton next year.

7. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman gave an update on the recovery of the Treasurer who had recently suffered a Stroke. His recovery will be a long process and at the moment he is unable to carry out both his duties as Mayor of Yeovil and that of Branch Treasurer. The Chairman stated that he will carry out the Treasurers duties on a temporary basis, both he and the Secretary being signatories on the Branch Bank Account. The Branches’ thoughts are with Andy at this difficult time and they wish him a speedy recovery.

He then gave the meeting a brief account of his visit to the RBL Oklahoma USA Branch which had been a great success. He will be producing an article for the RBL Monthly Bulletin on his visit. He stated that the USA RBL members were very appreciative of the annual wreath laying ceremony carried out at the commemorative plaque outside Lloyds Bank in the Borough. This is carried out by the Yeovil Branch in remembrance of the US service personnel based in and around Yeovil during WWII.

He gave an update on the claim being carried out by Gurkha soldiers on the disparity in pensions rights between them and their British counterparts.

He stated that he would be away from Yeovil from the 21 Sep 23 for a period on his humanitarian duties.

8. VICE-CHAIRMENS REPORT

The Vice-Chairman reported that Standard Bearer Training had now successfully been carried out and that the Branch now had three trained Standard Bearers; Gary Gilbert, Steve Dunkerly and Mike Mortimore.

He was actively looking for more volunteers to fill posts within the Branch and was currently pursuing several potential candidates.

9. PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

At the RBL Annual National Conference the motion to change the balance of the Board of Trustees away from the membership had not been approved. Any proposed future changes to the RBL Constitution were still being looked at by the Somerset RBL.

He briefed the meeting about the events due to take part on in Tenby, South Wales, on the 22-24 Sep 23 to commemorate the remnants of the Belgium Forces who reformed, after the collapse of Europe in 1940. He was pleased to announce that the Chairman had volunteered to be Parade Marshal for this advent.

He reminded the meeting to be very diplomatic in any contact they may have with representatives of the Somerset Afro Caribbean Network (SACN) reference Remembrance Sunday. This follows a complaint made to the RBL by the SACN last year.

10. TREASURERS REPORT

The Chairman stated that due to the Treasurers current situation he was in contact with County reference submitting the Branches Annual Accounts.

11. SECRETARY’S REPORT

The Secretary reminded members of the day’s events at Yeovil Rugby Club on 09 Sep 23 in support of the Veterans Lifeline charity.

12. VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORITUM

The Chairman stated that this was an ongoing project. The Branch is looking at carrying out the visit during the Spring in the new year. Other local ex-service organisations would be invited to join us.

13. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Chairman informed the meeting that the responsibility for organizing this event still lay primarily with the Town Council, however he had made contingency plans for the day in case the work in the Borough was still ongoing in November.

The Secretary stated that he had visited the Borough today and the work was progressing well and looked good for completion by November.

There was much discussion on the stability of the war Memorial post the construction work in the Borough. The Chairman stated that he had been assured that a structural survey had been carried by the contractor on behalf of the council and that no problems had been reported. However, it was agreed that the Chairman would contact the council asking to see a copy of the structural survey.

The Chairman reminded members that any requests for wreaths for Remembrance Sunday are to be made to him at least a week before the event.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Max 5 mins for each person)

A question was asked as to when ID Cards were likely to be issued to veterans. The Secretary stated that Veterans ID Cards had now been rolled out to were currently being issued to service personnel on discharge. However, the Government was experiencing administrative problems and no date had yet been given as to the issue of and distribution of ID cards to veterans.

15. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Branch AGM would be held at 1900 on 24 Oct 23 at Yeovil Rugby Club. The Chairman and Secretary are to get together prior to the AGM to draft and send out a notice of the meeting to all current members. It should be noted that entry to the meeting will be by Membership Card.

The next Branch Committee Meeting will be held post the AGM at the same venue.

16. KOHIMA CLOSING PRAYER

John

M J Emery MBE S Woodrow

Branch Secretary Branch Chairman