

# *Black Ants 51*

Issue No 3

## *Newsletter*



*Welcome* to the third issue of the newsletter. I hope you all enjoyed the first two issues. Some people said they did not recognise all of the people mentioned in the newsletters. This is understandable because depending on the years you were with the Squadron and also on the places you went would dictate the people you knew.

It was possible to be in the Squadron for 3 or 4 years and not get to meet everyone because of detachments, Annual Leave and courses. This said there are Characters that everyone appears to remember like Billy Eathorne, George Dempster, Ned Needham and of course SSM Kean to name but a few. Some are remembered for the parties and some for their prominence in various escapades that are burned into our memories.

I try to put in as big a cross section of Squadron interest as possible. This will probably include stuff from the website. Not every one has access to a computer so this kind of content is for them. So bear with me because I am sure you will find something of interest from some part of the letters sooner or later.

The Website has a few new pictures on it over the last month or so and I have promises of more to come. I will try at some future date to compile a sort of album with as many pictures as I can cram in. I am not sure yet if it will be just an electronic album or if I will be able to print it out. As I now have a lot of pictures a print out could work out very costly.

Keep the photos coming and send me emails on what you have done since leaving the Squadron. It doesn't matter if you have been round the world or just plodded along in a boring job we would all like to find out what you have been up to and its just nice to hear from people who were part of our formative years. It's over forty years ago since we were in Singapore and we need to swap memories before it gets too late.

While looking round a few sites on the web I found these pictures of Seletar that were taken last year some time. I am not sure of the copyrights on the pictures but if any one wants to sue me I will give them 100% of the money I make on them. (So they would get zero).



The Expressway    Seletar Gate

Seletar West Camp (Singapore)



Two pics of Seletar gate looks like these were taken at a different time to the others

As you can see, “the times they are a changing” The expressway apparently runs through part of the old west camp. I hope to be able to give a more informed view after my visit in November.

## Steam Engines

Roy Pinnock went to a steam exhibition for a day out and came across an engine with a Royal Engineers badge on the front. He made a few enquires but as of yet we do not have a lot of information about it. Roy went to the RE museum to see if he could find out more about it and after discussing it with the people there, they are keen to acquire it for the museum. On the next page are three of the photos he sent to me.



## Camping trip Hadrian's Wall

I was not sure I should put this into the newsletter, as strictly speaking it has nothing to do with 51 or the Royal engineers. However it is undoubtedly an Engineering project although it was built some 2000 years ago.

I was foolish enough to commit myself to a camping holiday in the area of the wall. I must say that the joys of the actual camping were totally lost on me. The upside of the holiday was that I got to see the wall and one or two old roman sites. As I had never seen the area before it was all "new" to me.

The wall its self is quite an achievement and you look at it and marvel at the sheer scope of the project. When walking round some of the old ruins of roman villas, forts and towns you can see civil and military engineering at its best. Apparently it took decades to complete. (I guess that's because they did not have 51 on the job)

Below are some of the pictures taken at Hadrian's wall.



Me, and I felt twice as bad as I look



The photos do not really do justice to the site. All I can say is if you have not seen the wall and it is well worth a visit.

**Here are some more of John Clark's photos** taken when he was on Holiday in Singapore earlier on this year. This time they are of Jalan Kayu.



## New Contacts

I have spoken to our old Sgt Major from Singapore Mr Keane. He and his wife appear to be well and he will be 86 this year. He retired as Captain so he had a successful Career. They live in Yorkshire.

He remembers 51 Sqn with fondness and in particular our very good football team in Singapore.

His Son Stephen contacted me first and I have had several emails and a long telephone conversation with him. He says He may get down to our next reunion as a representative of his family. He will of course be welcome as families were still a part of 51. Indeed the support of families is what helped make the whole Army experience so enjoyable.

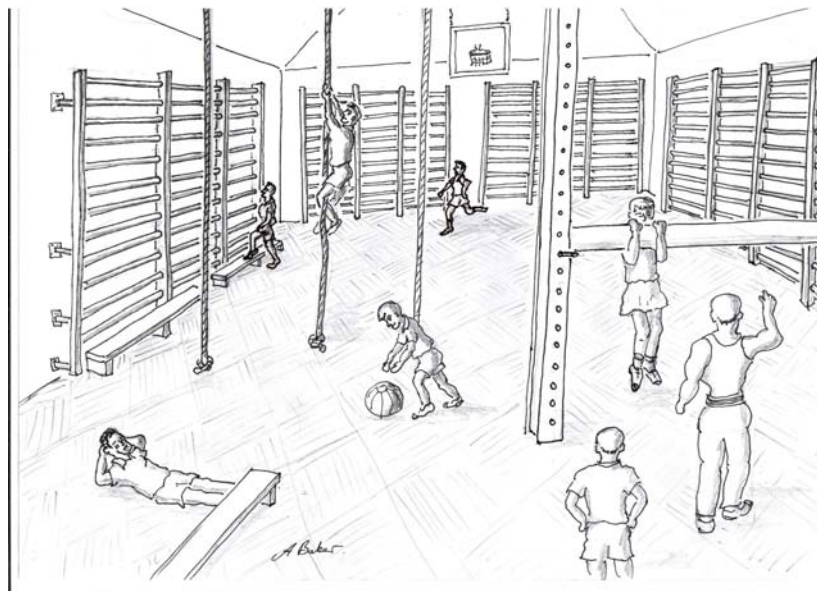
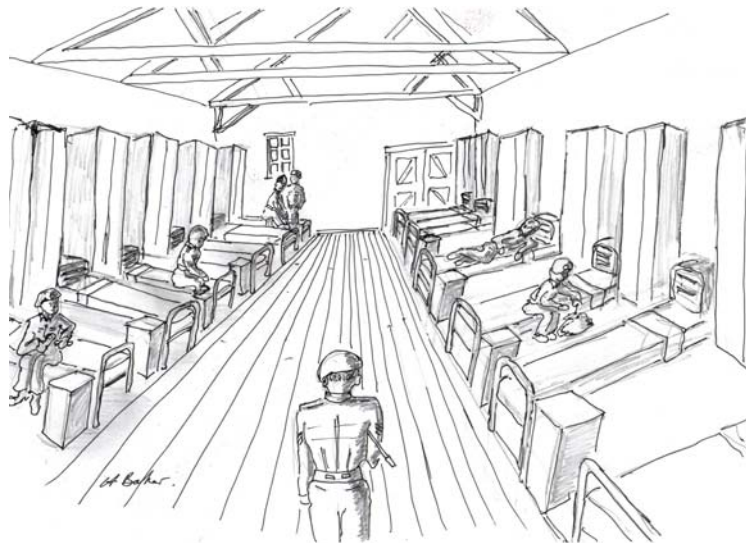
Gordon (Jock) Hoggan is the latest addition to our contacts list. Bill Renton had already got contact with him and he kindly passed on my email to him.

## Spot the difference

Well some of you liked the last one so I thought I would try another. This time there are 6 changes. The original is on the Top and is a photo of George Dempster and Ned Needham in their pipe band regalia.



**One of my Hobbies** is doodling and drawing pictures. Along with many other married men I have to suffer the nightly torture of CorrieEndersDale on the TV. Usually I turn my back on the TV and go on the computer but occasionally I sit down and rough out a picture of some sort. I do not claim to be any kind of an artist but some of the stuff I do may bring back a few memories for people. Below are two of the ones I did recently.



## Black Ants 51

We have a total of 27 members now so things are looking up.

The next reunion is Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at the King Charles Hotel Gillingham. The intention is to show a few slides and anything else we may come up with to give the day a bit of interest. We will have a buffet meal during the day and for those that want it there will be a proper sit down meal in the Hotel restaurant on the Saturday evening. Ron has been able to negotiate a few discounts for the 51 Reunion on the Hotel rooms and maybe on the evening meal if there are enough of us. Don't forget to book early as the Hotel gets quite busy with all kinds of functions and Reunions.

Below is a menu from the Hotel.

 <b>KING CHARLES</b> HOTEL Suggested Buffet Menus Prices valid January - November 2009																																													
The following are recommended as suitable for any evening function:																																													
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Finger Buffet 1.</u></p> Assorted Cocktail Sandwiches (Prawns, Ham, Beef, Cheese, Egg, Tuna and Salad) Cocktail Sausage Rolls Breaded Party Eggs Mini Sausages Golden Chicken Fingers Cheese & Onion Goujons Pork Pie Crisps & Tortilla Chips  £6.75 per person	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Finger Buffet 2.</u></p> Assorted Cocktail Sandwiches Cocktail Sausage Rolls Mini Vegetable Spring Rolls BBQ Chicken Drumsticks Potato Skins with Sour Cream & Chive Dip Crudities & Dips Cheese and Fruit on Sticks Crisps and Tortilla Chips  £7.50 per person																																												
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Finger Buffet 3.</u></p> Open Cocktail Rolls Sausage Rolls Cocktail Chicken Sate with Peanut Sauce Cocktail Vegetable Sate Golden Chicken Fingers Assorted Quiche Crudites with Garlic Dip (Strips of raw Carrots, Celery, Cucumber and Peppers) Crisps and Tortillas Mini Patisserie Dessert Platter or Fresh Fruit Bowl  £8.50 per person	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fork Buffet 4.</u></p> French Bread and Butter Cheese Board Ham Cornets Japanese Breaded Prawns Tomato & Basil Quiche Wings of Fire Hot Buttered New Potatoes Chef's Garden Salad Mini Dessert Platter or Fresh Fruit Bowl Crisps and Tortilla Chips  £10.75 per person																																												
<p><u>To enhance your function, we can provide arrival drinks for your guests:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Bucks Fizz (sparkling wine &amp; orange juice) - £2.80 per glass</td> <td>House Champagne</td> <td>£29.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kir (sparkling wine &amp; blackcurrant) - £3.30</td> <td>Laurent Perrier</td> <td>£42.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pimms no. 1 (with lemonade, fruit, ice and mint) - £3.30 per glass</td> <td>Moet</td> <td>£47.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sparkling Wine (Asti) - £15.00 per bottle (approx 6 glasses)</td> <td>Bollinger Special Cuvee</td> <td>£56.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jug of Fresh Orange Juice - £5.50 per jug (approx 6 glasses)</td> <td>Pink Champagne</td> <td>£67.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red or White Wine by the bottle from £11.50 per bottle (approx 6 glasses)</td> <td>(Laurent Perrier)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Bucks Fizz (sparkling wine & orange juice) - £2.80 per glass	House Champagne	£29.50	Kir (sparkling wine & blackcurrant) - £3.30	Laurent Perrier	£42.50	Pimms no. 1 (with lemonade, fruit, ice and mint) - £3.30 per glass	Moet	£47.90	Sparkling Wine (Asti) - £15.00 per bottle (approx 6 glasses)	Bollinger Special Cuvee	£56.50	Jug of Fresh Orange Juice - £5.50 per jug (approx 6 glasses)	Pink Champagne	£67.50	Red or White Wine by the bottle from £11.50 per bottle (approx 6 glasses)	(Laurent Perrier)																											
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<p><u>The following items may be added to any of the above buffets:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Whole Dressed Salmon (serves approx 80)</td> <td>£90.00</td> <td>Crisps &amp; Savoury Snacks (per table)</td> <td>£4.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smoked Salmon (approx 15 ptns side cut)</td> <td>£40.00</td> <td>Sweets (per table)</td> <td>£4.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tiger Prawns with Marie Rose Dip (70)</td> <td>£43.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sushi (36 pieces with dips)</td> <td>£55.00</td> <td><b>Desserts</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seafood Sticks (per 60)</td> <td>£22.00</td> <td>Chocolate Profiteroles (per 24)</td> <td>£25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Mini Dessert Platter (3 per ptn)</td> <td>£ 1.80 ptn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Garden Salad (approx. 25 ptns)</td> <td>£15.00</td> <td>Chocolate Fudge Cake (16 ptns)</td> <td>£22.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vegetable Pasta Salad (25 ptns)</td> <td>£15.00</td> <td>Black Forest Gateau (18 ptns)</td> <td>£24.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coleslaw (25 ptns)</td> <td>£18.00</td> <td>Strawberry Gateau (18 ptns)</td> <td>£24.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waldorf Salad (25 ptns)</td> <td>£22.00</td> <td>Cheesecake (16 ptns)</td> <td>£22.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buttered New Potatoes (25 ptns)</td> <td>£25.00</td> <td>(strawberry, chocolate, blueberry or mandarin)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Whole Dressed Salmon (serves approx 80)	£90.00	Crisps & Savoury Snacks (per table)	£4.50	Smoked Salmon (approx 15 ptns side cut)	£40.00	Sweets (per table)	£4.00	Tiger Prawns with Marie Rose Dip (70)	£43.00			Sushi (36 pieces with dips)	£55.00	<b>Desserts</b>		Seafood Sticks (per 60)	£22.00	Chocolate Profiteroles (per 24)	£25.00			Mini Dessert Platter (3 per ptn)	£ 1.80 ptn	Mixed Garden Salad (approx. 25 ptns)	£15.00	Chocolate Fudge Cake (16 ptns)	£22.00	Vegetable Pasta Salad (25 ptns)	£15.00	Black Forest Gateau (18 ptns)	£24.00	Coleslaw (25 ptns)	£18.00	Strawberry Gateau (18 ptns)	£24.00	Waldorf Salad (25 ptns)	£22.00	Cheesecake (16 ptns)	£22.00	Buttered New Potatoes (25 ptns)	£25.00	(strawberry, chocolate, blueberry or mandarin)	
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The next newsletter should be in time for Christmas. (as long as I can find enough to make it interesting.)

[www.beef-51.britishforces.com](http://www.beef-51.britishforces.com)