

# *Black Ants 51 News letter*

*Issue No 4*



*Welcome once again to the newsletter for Ex 51 members. Again some of you will find that a lot of the content is already on the website but there are still a lot of people who have not got access to a computer so they only see what is in the newsletter.*

*I have just been to Singapore for a holiday and below is a copy of the blog that I put on the website and I have added a few photos so illustrate the blog.*

## *Back in Blighty*

*Well here I am back in Old Blighty and the winter weather. I had a great 30 days in Singapore and loved every minute of it.*

*As I reported in the last blog I had a trip round some of our old haunts and things have changed quite a lot. The old camp at Seletar has shrunk to about a 16<sup>th</sup> of its old size. Part of the old runway is used as a small airfield but most of the land has been taken over by civilian firms for various enterprises. Around the area of the old C of E Church is a country club with a swimming pool.*

*The old RAF headquarters is still standing and will be kept as part of the heritage programme as will the old Guard room. The remaining bit of the camp still has a few of the old blocks and a few of the old buildings like the Sgts Mess, the NAAFI with the cookhouse below and the Malcolm Club. The Cookhouse is still used by the Singapore Engineers who are billeted there.*

*The trip to Serangoon Gardens was a bit of a disappointment in some ways as new development seems to be creeping in at a fast rate but it is still recognisable.*

*The top part of Jalan Kayu nearest the camp has gone to make way for new Road works. However the bottom part remains and is still more or less the same.*

*I will be making a page with all the new pictures sometime this week so you will get a better idea of the changes from them.*

*I met up with Keith Thomas and his wife Anne who were on a three-day stopover on his way to Bali. We took a trip to the Kanii War memorial and the old ford*

factory where the British signed their surrender in WW2.

I also met up with Gareth (Taff) Davies and his wife in China town. Gareth is on a nine-month posting after coming out of retirement for the third time.

A trip to Changi proved to be a bit of a disappointment as it is now called Changi Village and is used to milk tourists of their hard earned cash. It is quite pleasant to walk round the place and sit down to the kind of meals we used to have after a night on the booze in the old days.

Most of the coastline of Singapore has changed because of land reclamation projects and I reckon there is growth in land area of about 10%. The east coast has changed but it has been made into a long beautiful beach where you can take walks or bike rides and stop at food areas for some wonderful Makan.

There are now a total of three causeways into Malaya and discussions for another some time in the future. Singapore does not have to rely on Malaya for water now as they have built several new reservoirs and are even using desalination plants.

Overall it was a very nice stay in Singapore and at the end of it we were reluctant to come home. In the end though its nice to have your own bed back and the family round you.

Beef



*Old Gate*



*New Gate*



*Showing my Son my old Billet*





*Cook House*



*D block (Sgts Mess to Right)*



*All that remains of the Swimming pool*



*The Sports field*



*Gareth (Taff) Davies & Wife*



*Keith Thomas & Anne*

*These are just a few of the photos that can be seen on the website. My apologies to Gareth and his wife, I have forgotten his wife's name. I will rectify that as soon as possible.*

**The venue at the King Charles Hotel has been confirmed. If you are staying over one or two nights at the Hotel there will be a small discount on the room for members of 51 as long as you tell them when you book in. Also slight savings on the buffet and the evening meal. The idea being that those of us that want a sit down evening meal could pre order and get discounts.**

**Again we will have a few slides and pictures and hopefully a little booklet with some of the latest pics that have been supplied by members. If I can come up with anything else to provide an interest I will do so.**

**The actual date of the Reunion is the Saturday 27th February 2010. Start time 1000hrs. I have booked in at the Hotel for the nights of, Friday 26th and Saturday 27th.**

*Keith Thomas sent me a picture of his Grandson who has joined the Engineers. Keith is quite rightly proud of his Grandson but wondered if I could spot something odd in the picture. So there are no prizes but see if you can notice anything.*



*To be fair his NCOs should have spotted something before the photo was taken. Good luck to the lad and all our best wishes for his future. Hope he enjoys his time with the Engineers.*

*On this page I have put another spot the difference as some people did say they liked the last two. There are at least 7 differences. The original Picture is NAAFI break during operation Pipe Major.*



*As Christmas and New Year draw near I would like to send all our best wishes for the season and the coming year to all the Lads and Lassies serving overseas. Hope you all get home safely. For those of us that still say a prayer, include a few extra for them all.*

*Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year to  
everyone*

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