

**From:** Sapper John Fitzmaurice, Chairman

# The Blythe Sappers



Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008

**To All Blythe Sappers**

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**Dear Blythe Sapper**

I thought I would write this note to bring you up to date after our very successful Guest Night at Chatham on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August. 76 Sappers and their guests attended. The sextet from the Corps Band were very good. Sapper O'Donoghue and Lady Jean attended (graced the occasion).

Our Principle Guest and speaker John Stanion, at our lunch on 4<sup>th</sup> June was excellent and his speech has now been published in the August issue of the Journal of the Institution. It is six pages long and makes fascinating reading.

As far as our donations go, we made a donation on £1000 to Combat Stress and received a fulsome reply.

The news of Adventure Training is that we made a donation of £500 to support four TA Sappers and Gurkha Sapper to attend Exercise Market Garden, an RE Parachute Team exercise held at Lake Elsinore in California from 26<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> May. We were sent a very good report and an excellent group photograph which included the aircraft from which they jumped, and I will bring it with me to our luncheon at the RAG on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, when Field Marshal the Right Honourable Lord Inge KG GCB DL is our Principle Guest and speaker. Our final speaker on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December is the Chief Royal who retires on 8<sup>th</sup> May next year.

You may remember I said that we would try and strengthen our links with the Civils, the Engineer and Logistic Staff Corps and "Sappers in the City" with a view to increasing our membership in the future.

We gave lunch to the Director General of the Civils, Brigadier Tom Foulkes and his director of Policy, Lt Col Andy Gooding, and so now a stronger link has been established for the Secretary to work on.

I also gave lunch to Colonel John Pritchard, the Acting Adjutant of the Engineer and Logistic Staff Corps and intend to follow that up with a distribution of our current Historical Note to their 70 odd members of that organisation. A meeting with the representative of "Sappers in the City" has been more difficult to arrange as he works for an American Bank and is often travelling overseas. However we are trying again.

I was delighted to receive 18 letters in reply to my previous round-robin about various matters. I am replying to the letters as fast as I can. All were supportive and I will summarise them at our AGM.

I much look forward to meeting again at our lunch at the RAG on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours sincerely

John Fitzmaurice, Chairman