



RAF Butterworth/Penang Association

Chairman: Tony Parrini Treasurer: Len Wood Secretary: Pete Mather
(formed: 30th August 1996 at the Casuarina Hotel, Batu Ferringhi, Penang Island)

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2002

Aims of the Association

The Association aims to establish and maintain contact with personnel and their dependants who served at Butterworth or Penang by means of annual reunions in the UK and the circulation of a membership list. The Association may also arrange holidays in Malaysia from time to time.

Chairman's Corner

With the New Year now upon us I hope that all Members of the Association and their families are looking forward, as I am, to a better 2002. For many, especially those living in rural areas, 2001 was not a year we wish to cling to. However, the completion of the first phase of the FEAF Grove project at the National Memorial Arboretum coupled with the weekend reunion of the Association was a highlight amid a great deal of gloom and doom.

The AGM resulted in a number of decisions being made and was the opportunity to develop the Association a stage further. It was with some sorrow that we said farewell to John Gallop as our Treasurer, but I was so pleased that the proposal to make him our first Honorary Life Member was accepted by those present. Welcome to Len Wood who has taken over as Treasurer and a formal welcome to Dave Croft who has taken on the task of Newsletter Editor and helped to reduce the pressure on Pete Mather.

The ties we have developed with the Changi, Seletar, NMBVA and other Far East Associations are now proving their worth. New members are being referred between Associations; this is a great advantage to all of us. This Newsletter comes with a membership form for you to use should you be in contact with a former colleague who is not yet a member.

As a result of the apparent support of those present at the AGM we are now working on another reunion trip to Malaysia in 2003. Arthur Mace is doing some initial investigation regarding costings. This is proving a little more complicated than previously due to Trimaflights going out of business as a result of 11/9/2001. If you are interested please read on and complete the booking form later in the Newsletter.

Finally, could I thank all those who have sent Anne and I messages over the Christmas and New Year period. They were unexpected but it's so nice to know that our efforts are appreciated - it makes Chairmanship of the RAF Butterworth and Penang Association so worthwhile - Thank you.

Tony Parrini
Chairman.

News Page

Archive Materials

From Dave Croft, Archivist for the Association.....many, many thanks for loaning archive materials for copying or long term loan.....it has been a privilege to share your time out Far East through your photographs and writings and other materials.

At the 2001 reunion I borrowed much material with a promise to return the same fairly quickly. Unfortunately due to circumstances that have arisen through my job I have been unable to keep this promise, but the recording of members materials will continue, albeit at a slower rate than I am used to! Please bear with me and eventually the job will 'get done'

Also with respect to the pictorial history of Butterworth/Penang being presented on CD, members were shown a 'rough' copy at the AGM which will be available, when tidied up, for members to acquire...again a time for completion cannot be given, but!!!

Lost Friends

Kenneth (Ken) Mutton, ex- Royal Australian Artillery, Butterworth 1967/69 is seeking the whereabouts of Edward (Ted) Wood who possibly served with 33 Squadron, 1967/68.

Ted married Ann Baker at the Holy Trinity Church, Sheerness in 1969. Ken has two addresses for Ted - Headley in Hants for 1968 and Sheerness for 1969.

If any member can assist Ken in his quest, the address is:

40 Alday Street,
St James,
Western Australia 6102
Australia

e-mail: JAKEAL@bigpond.com

Badged Goods - price list

The Association has a price list from Terrane Promotions , Terrane House, Whisby Way Industrial Estate, Lincoln . LN6 3LQ. These are as follows:

Sweatshirts	£16.50
Acrylic Jerseys	£20.95
Wool Jerseys	£28.50
Poloshirts	£15.50
Gold wire badges	£18.25
Royal thread badges	£4.00

However, if ordering, it might be advisable to ring Terrane on 01522 697000 to confirm prices, postage and availability etc.

National Memorial Arboretum - FEAf Project

Further to the content of page 3 regarding the history of FEAf, the help of members is invited in the search for information, perhaps in terms of bases, airfields, units and squadrons (to start with) within the FEAf boundary, not SEAC! Although some information is available it is probably best we start with a blank page; better to have too much information than insufficient...we can always trim the fat off!

References sources readily to hand at present are:

- Action Stations Overseas.....Sqn Ldr Tony Fairbairn
- Eastward (RAF in the Far East...1945 - 1972)...A.C.M. Sir David Lee
- Lion in the Sky (Seletar and the RAF in Singapore)...N. Shorrick
- Out in the Midday Sun - Singapore 1941-1945.....Kate Caffrey
- RAF Helicopters (Far East 1962 - 1972)...Wing Commander John Dowling
- Seventy Days to Singapore - the Malayan Campaign 1941-1942...Stanley L. Falk
- The Squadrons of the Royal air Force and Commonwealth 1918 - 1988...James J.Halley
(Gives a 'potted' history of each squadron in the RAF and b/w [Queens Crown] squadron badges)

If you can help it would be much appreciated if you contact either Tony Parrini or Dave Croft in the first place...even small snippets of information can help complete the FEAf history jigsaw!

THE FEAF GROVE

RAF Butterworth and Penang Association

RAF Seletar Association

Helicopter Operations (Malaya Emergency) Association

North Borneo and Malayan Veterans Association

RAF Changi Association

No 48 Squadron

No 52 Squadron

Conclusion of Phase 1 - October 2001

The Far East Air Force Grove was established at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 13th October 2001 with the planting of ten trees and siting of dedicated plaques and a memorial bench. The dedication service was conducted by The Rev (Squadron Leader) Alan Coates and music was provided by the RAF Cosford Volunteer Band under the direction of Flight Sergeant Peter Wood. The Guard of Honour was provided by No 1206 (Mercian) Squadron, Air Training Corps under the command of Flight Lieutenant Roger Dukes. Representatives of all the above associations ensured a good attendance on what was a very moving occasion.

Phase 2

Credit for the vision which led to the dedication of a FEAF Grove belongs to Tony Parrini who is now looking forward to phase 2 with, again, further involvement not only from our association but from those listed above.

Tony raises two immediate issues:

- what do 'we' want the structural content of the FEAF Grove to be? Initial suggestions include a marked layout of the Malayan Peninsular and Borneo with the trees replanted to indicate the unit(s) or squadrons they are dedicated to. Another is to locate a BAe Lightning [the last aircraft type to be linked with FEAF] in the grove area. Also a large stone or brick memorial with the names of units and squadrons has been suggested, whilst the Director of the Arboretum would like to have the FEAF history, location by location, recorded in some way.
- how much is to be pledged towards the project? If phase two is to go ahead on a planned basis it is important that Tony is aware of monies being made available from all interested bodies.

Using these issues as a framework a time scale has been set, aiming to bring together representatives, possibly at the Arboretum with the Director, some time in Spring 2002 in order to agree a way forward.

News Page (continued from page 2)

GONE TO HIS ETERNAL REWARD

It is with regret that we announce the death between Christmas and the New Year of Kirk Telford.

As Flt Lt Telford he served as OC Accounts Flight at RAF Penang from 1969 to 1971. Our condolences have been sent to his widow Anita and her family.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

2002 Reunion - Solihull - 12/13 October 2002.

Details in the next Newsletter.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Seeking the 'Jacksons' who lived in Medan Tembaga, Penang. 1966 to 1968. Had 3 children, Lee, Carrie and Alli who went to the Minden Barracks School. Debbie Pope (now Horrocks) would love to contact the family again. Contact is Debbie Horrocks in Australia.....telephone 00618-89451456 or e-mail: hotrocks@austarnet.com.au

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

DEDICATION OF THE FAR EAST AIR FORCE GROVE



SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER 2001

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Patron: H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent



Presentation Tree Certificate

This is to certify that a tree dedicated to

Royal Air Force Station
BUTTERWORTH

was planted in the
National Memorial
Arboretum

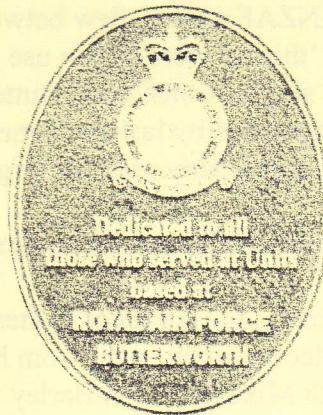
on
13th October 2001

Sir David Puttnam CBE
Chairman of Trustees



and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle tree,

and it shall be an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off, saith Esaias



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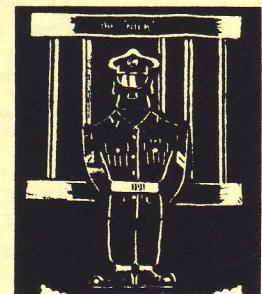
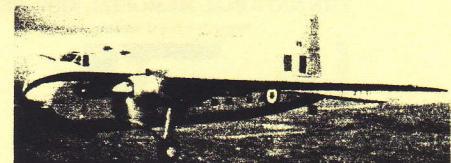
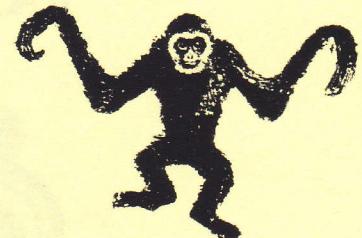
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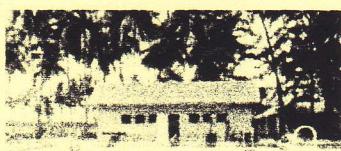
Memory Lane

In reply to Don Brereton's 'visit' [Spring 2001], Mike Ward (A4139350 Cpl NCO i/c Civilian Pay, May 1955 to October 1957) had the following to say:

- 1 Group Captain Baxter died 12th November 1998 aged 85 years He used to swing his pet gibbon between his legs which made a change from the ubiquitous Labrador. (keeping a Labrador that is, not swinging one between the legs!)
- 2 SWO Preston - a likeable fellow really!. One of his favourite 'practices' was to stand outside Pay Accounts and 'issue' kind words of warning to the "Moonies" over their standards of dress - the very same people who had slept in their uniforms on the over night train from KL.
- 3 The Duke of Edinburgh's visit in 1956....he must have been around 35 at the time. A parade was held and it was not pleasant hanging around having to wear a shirt with tie, No 6 jacket and trousers!
- 4 'Pinky' from 45 Sqn.....was it 'Pinky' who lived on Tiger beer?
- 5 Chin Peng from the Airmans NAAFI.....Mike remembers a Chinese who pedalled a 3 wheel cycle around the station selling iced drinks.
- 6 RNZAF Bristol Freighters.....RNZAF 41 Sqn flew between Butterworth and Changi [these 'things' were still in use in 1968 used, among other things to fly single airmen up to Butterworth while their married colleagues travelled by luxury Comet].
- 7 The Station Flight Meteor...it was probably used for target towing!
- 8 The RAF Police culling wild dogs!...Mike cannot remember this incident, but maybe other members can?
- 9 Mike also remembers Mrs Fleming, 'the Angel of Butterworth'. She made many a young airman welcome when so far from home.
- 10 Towards the end of his tour both Mike and Alan Barley were made custodians of, and lived in, transit accommodation near the swimming pool. Both were also (sometimes) cashier/usher for the nearby station cinema.



Cartoon: Pete Wiggins



The new swimming pool and Astra Cinema 1956

Photographs: Rod Hartley

- 11 Problems were also experienced crossing the old runway to get to SHQ, especially if occupied by half a dozen Lincolns from Tengah waiting to take off.

TRIP TO MALAYSIA 2003

Investigations are currently underway to price a trip to Singapore and Malaysia for 2 to 3 weeks between April and June 2003.

The itinerary has not been finalised at this stage. However, it is planned round the following:

**Fly to Singapore (via KL) for 3 nights.
Harbour Cruise - City Tour, etc.**

Singapore to Malacca by Coach for 2 nights.

**Malacca to KL by Coach for 4 nights.
Plenty of free time.
City Tour, Twin Petronas Towers and Seri Malayu Cultural Show, etc.**

**KL to Cameron Highlands for 2 nights.
Freetime to cool off. Visit Butterfly Farm, Old Smoke House.**

Cameron Highlands to Penang for 6 to 8 nights.

Freetime, plus the opportunity to tour the Island, visit Butterworth, etc.

Fly from Penang to KL (or Singapore) and back to UK.

This is the basic itinerary at this stage. Those going would be free to add extra destinations before or after the basic trip - ie, Visit Hong Kong, Sabah, Borneo or anywhere else, but tie into the complete basic trip.

COST - we can only estimate at this stage. But going on previous trips organised through Trimaflights, we would expect the 15/17 nights to cost in the region of £1500 half board. (Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal). There may be a Single Room Supplement for Single Travellers.

GROUP LEADER - we seek a Group Leader prepared to undertake the liaison with the chosen Tour Operator, take the bookings and to go on the trip to be the interface between the Group and the Tour Guides, etc. It's not as onerous as it sounds.

IF INTERESTED - FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE NEED SOME IDEA OF THE NUMBERS WANTING TO GO. WITHOUT COMMITMENT AT THIS STAGE, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE PORTION OVERLEAF, AS SHOWN: