

Butterworth 'Bruisers'*



Too late to be included in the printed copy of *'Eastward'*, the artwork shown above was sent to Tony Parrini (RAFBPA Chairman) by award winning aviation artist, Chris French, with the following message: 'I am an aviation artist and I recently decided to do an oil painting depicting Gloster Javelins. After doing my research for the painting I elected to depict Javelins of 60 Squadron, departing Butterworth in the mid-1960's. During the course of my research I came across the website for the Butterworth/Penang Association and thought you (or your members) might be interested in seeing it?

I plan to exhibit the work at this year's *Aviation Paintings of the Year* exhibition at the Mall Galleries in July and prints will be available from Hansen Fine Art in due course.'

Chris French GAvA

A signed print of the painting, shown above, has been donated to the RAFBPA by the artist and will be raffled at the Annual AGM and Reunion in June 2013. Raffle tickets are £1.00 each and for those wishing to participate in the draw but not attending the reunion, please send a cheque for the number of tickets you require to Len Wood (Treasurer) at 3 Fairfield Avenue, Grimsby, DN33 3DS. Your tickets will be entered in the draw at the reunion. The proceeds of the raffle will be donated to a military charity, to be decided at the AGM.

*The title 'Butterworth Bruisers' is very appropriate; as a bomber interceptor the Javelin packed a punch with its Firestreak air-to-air missiles and 30 mm ADEN cannons although it never fired them in anger. But it saw action in Borneo during Confrontation: 60 Squadron aircraft assisted 'friendly' ground forces in skirmishes against Indonesian infiltrators by making low, fast runs over the enemy and engaging the afterburners causing an 'explosion' when they 'cut in' and fooling the infiltrators into believing they were being bombed. Also, a memorable occasion for a Vulcan navigator was experienced when he was given a ride in the back seat of a Butterworth-based 60 Squadron Javelin. After fighter affiliation exercises the aircraft was put into a near vertical dive from 40,000 feet and tightly levelled off to around 50 feet above the sea followed by a number of high speed turns thrown in for good measure. Good use of a brown paper bag was made by the navigator and he said he felt reassured by the comfort of an ejector seat should the need arise. Truly an exceptional aircraft!