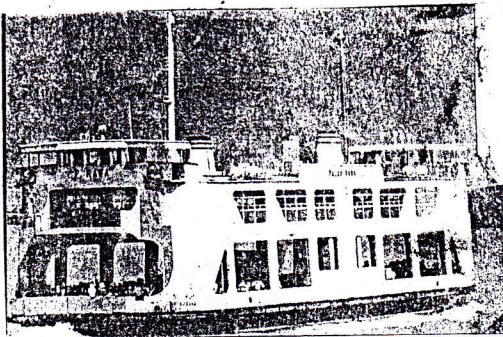


RAF Butterworth/Penang Association



Chairman: Tony Parrini Treasurer: John Gallop Secretary: Pete Mather
(Formed: 30th August 1996 at the Casurina Hotel, Batu Ferringhi, Penang Island)

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1999

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.

1999 Reunion Weekend - Solihull 25/26 September

The 1999 UK Reunion of the RAF Butterworth/Penang Association is scheduled to take place at the Jarvis International Hotel on Saturday and Sunday 25th and 26th September. The weekend will provide a chance to catch up with old friends, to drool over the images of this year's Far East Trip and we hope to have some form of sale of Malaysian Fashion items. The weekend will include the AGM, during which the accounts and subscriptions will be discussed, your committee will have to be appointed and any other matters discussed. Full details below. IF YOU ARE COMING, PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED BOOKING FORM WITH £10 PER PERSON DEPOSIT AS INDICATED, BY 27TH AUGUST AT THE LATEST. WE HOPE THAT THIS YEAR WILL SEE THE BIGGEST TURN-OUT YET FOR OUR ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER.

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BOOKING FORM ON YELLOW SHEET

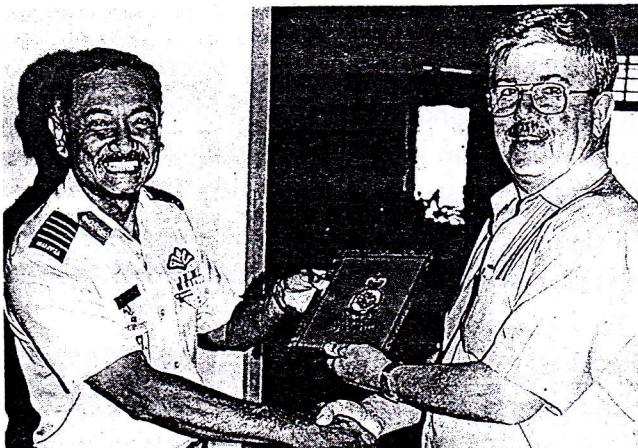
Far East Reunion 1999

35 members of the Association, including friends and family members, spent almost 3 weeks in the Far East from 14th April to 4th May. The trip covered Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, the islands of Tioman, Langkawi, and Penang. As usual, our Appointed Tour operator, Trimaflights, really treated the group extremely well, with most of us wondering how on earth we got such a good deal for the price. Some highlights from the Chairman's diary:

- *Singapore Slings in the Raffles Hotel
- *Swimming with the fish at Tioman
- *The new KL International Airport
- *Going to the top of the Tower in KL
- *The spectacular views on the Golf Course at Langkawi
- *The reception at the Casuarina Hotel
- *The sunsets at Batu Ferringhi
- *The 2 former National Service members of No 487 SU finding their building still standing in a paddy field just north of the main Butterworth Runway
- *Getting through the Green Lane at LHR
- *The beauty of Tioman and the comfort of the Berjaya Hotel
- *Having a VIP suite in the Hilton at KL
- *Finding the Butterworth and other Squadron Shields in the ceiling at the KL memorial Gardens
- *The Great Eagle overlooking Langkawi
- *The welcome and hospitality of the Base Commander at Butterworth (See photo)
- *Parascending off the beach at Batu Ferringhi
- *Having plenty of leg-room on the flight home
- *The hospitality of the staff on Malaysian Airlines
- *Receiving a surprisingly low Visa bill

and

Extract and photograph from the Penang Sun (Sat - 1st May 1999)



Parrini presents Shahron a RAF Butterworth crest at the Casuarina Beach Resort. - Sunwx

Ex-RAF men go on a nostalgic trip

Penang, Fri: It was a nostalgic trip down memory lane for 35 former Royal Air Force (RAF) servicemen when they visited the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base in Butterworth yesterday.

The group of 35 men who served in Penang between 1950 and 1971, here for a week-long visit, were met on arrival by base commander Kol Shahron Ibrahim.

Group Leader Tony Parrini described the visit to the base as "the icing on the cake" of their Penang trip.

"This is obviously a very sentimental visit for us as it brought back many old memories of our time here," said the former Squadron Leader who served in Penang from 1968 to 1971.

"Places like the pool, the cinema and the mess are exactly as we remember them. The station headquarters still looks the same from the outside but its facilities inside are all up-to-date," he added.

Parrini later presented Kol Shahron with an RAF Butterworth crest in appreciation of the RMAF hospitality.

Founded on Aug 31, 1996, the UK-based RAF Butterworth/Penang Association has 180 British and Australian members.

The group is staying at the Casuarina Beach Resort in Batu Ferringhi.

Books

A Suitcase Full of Dreams

An aeronautical journey

by

David Taylor

A suitcase of dreams is the story of a Yorkshire lad. Scarborough born, Norton raised, now resident in York, David Taylor developed a keen interest in aviation and travel early in life. As a member of the ATC he left school to become an engineer, but his apprenticeship proved to be brief, for at 16 1/2 he joined the RAF as a Boy Entrant. Different times, and a different Air Force, far removed from today's diminished yet high tech-vision.

On completion of training in 1953 he began life of endless travel to which this book relates. His work, in the service, and later the oil industry, has taken him to over a hundred countries, one hundred & forty plus types of aircraft conveying him on his travels. It is a tongue in cheek story of aviation and travel, and of the colourful characters he met en-route to wherever, but above all it is a nostalgic insight of times which were far more tranquil than those of today.

Order details: Price in UK £10 including post and packaging from:

Delta Tango Publications
35 Lower Darnborough Street
York
YO23 1AR

† Condolences †

It is with deep sadness that we report the deaths of three of our members:

Peter B Harris of Kintbury, Berkshire
Bryan Mercer of Lampeter, Dyfed and
John Pickles of Plymstock, Devon.

Future RAF Butterworth/Penang Association Trips to the Far East

The subject of our own future trips to the Far East will be discussed at the AGM in September. However, we have been approached by the RAF Changi and RAF Seletar Associations to consider a combined trip in 2001. Your views would be welcome.

Chairman: Tony Parrini
Hamethwaite
Rockcliffe
Carlisle
Cumbria CA6 4AA

Secretary: Pete Mather
25 Budham Way
Bracknell
Berks RG12 8PE

Treasurer: John Gallop
101 Lowry Hill Road
Carlisle
Cumbria CA3 0ER

DO YOU REMEMBER ?

Do you remember a Cpl (Shug) Cunningham?
He was a dog Handler at Butterworth between
1965-67. If so, his daughter Helen would very
much like to hear from you. Her address is:- Mrs H
Thackray, 6 Bosworth Avenue, Altofts, West
Yorkshire, WF6 2SF

Mr E W Bell of 44 Clowance Lane, Plymouth, PL1
4LF is trying to trace ex Cpl Terry Foreman (Supplier
II) who was stationed at Butterworth between
1955/56. If you know Mr Foreman's whereabouts,
please let Mr Bell know.

Tour Administrator/ Group Leader



The first member of the
Association to volunteer to take
on the organisation of the next reunion trip to the Far East,
and to be the Group Leader can have a free holiday! The deal
takes effect when a group of 30 or more undertakes the trip.
The Chairman is prepared to do the admin. if necessary, for
a share in the value of the trip. Details from Tony Parrini on
01228 674553.

The RAF Changi Association is planning a trip to Singapore
and Penang next year and requested that we circulate the details to
our members. The trip starts on 23rd January 2000, so if you are
interested, please contact Mike James of the RAF Changi Association
as shown as soon as possible.

RAF Changi Association.



Would very much like to invite you to its
Second Holiday/Reunion, in January 2000

To

SINGAPORE, OR PENANG ONLY

Or, if you wish

SINGAPORE & PENANG

Provisional Price :- From £832 for 9 Days, to £1015 for 16 Days,
plus shorter or longer if you so wish at any Destination.

"Magic of the Orient" is a Fully Bonded ABTA, ATOL, & AITO Travel Agent.

For further details, please write with a s.a.e. to:-

Mike James.
12, Shiners Elms,
Yatton,
BRISTOL.
BS49 4BY

WHO WAS JOHN HOGGAN ?

When we returned to
Butterworth this year,
we were taken to the
tomb of John Hoggan &
wife located among the
Airmen's Barrack
Blocks on the Base.
The area comprises one
large and one small
white tomb enclosed by
a metal fence.
Nobody at the base has
any positive details or
records.

Who was he?

Why is the tomb placed
where it is?

Was it there before the
blocks were built?

Do you know the
background?

If so, the chairman,
Tony Parrini will be
pleased to hear from
you.