

75 AIRCRAFT WORKSHOP, KLUANG

Due to considerable upheavals since our formation in October 1965, this is our first contribution to *The Craftsman*, but as we have now settled in, contributions will follow at regular intervals.

Our workshop is situated at Kluang, in the State of Johore, Malaysia, some eighty-five miles from Singapore, and includes a varied complement of Army, some Navy, and, shortly will include quite a number of RAF Technicians. Our main task of course is to keep the aircraft flying, and this is achieved more often than not by a grand bunch of lads, from the ASM down to the tea-boys.

Looking at the sporting side we usually take part in all Garrison sporting activities, ranging from soccer to six-a-side deck hockey. This latter being an old Naval sport. At the time of writing an Inter- Dept Deck Hockey League is being organized, the results of which will be published in our next article.

The Sgts' Mess, on 13 of June 1966, amalgamated with the Sgts' Mess 34 GTR, and is now known as Kluang Garrison Corps Sgts' Mess. Activities in the mess are regularly organized, much to the satisfaction of all members. The second Sgts' Mess Darts League of 1966 has just ended, our own Mess narrowly being beaten by the British Sgts' Mess Gurkha Engineers. However, we intend to do our best to occupy the top position in the first league of 1967.

The Unit Naafi, much to the delight of our junior ranks, is no more. In its place sprang the Junior Ranks Social Club, now known as the 'Blades'. The Club was officially opened on Friday 28 October 1966, by Mrs Tomkins, the wife of our Commanding Officer, at a grand opening dance. She was assisted by Cpl Maloney, the Secretary of the Club, and Cfn Hartley carrying the scissors to cut the tape. A local group, 'The Rhythm Strangers', supplied the music, and an excellent buffet was provided. All in all an excellent evening thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. A dance was held on 19 November and a Grand Fancy Dress Ball is arranged for the 23 December. It is also intended to run a Christmas Draw during the festival period.

A number of our members recently took part in a 'misadventure' training exercise in the Cameron Highlands.

A short report by Sgt Hazell, i/c Party, follows:

'On arrival at Brinchang Camp all had been organized into chaos, and all we had to do was settle in and eat. The cold weather we were promised did not materialize, only rain! The following day we commenced our activities with an hours' march to get used to the packs and tone up the muscles. On Thursday, we departed on a training run which was followed by lectures on all aspects of the trip. We were advised not to propose to the natives (apparently this is done by offering a local belle a cigarette!). On Friday we left the Tea Estate and started our jaunt into the ulu (jungle), finally arriving at Fort Temerloh, a hutted camp some sixteen miles from our starting point at 1500 hrs on Saturday. We managed a shower with the help of a Ghee tin (local cooking fat) and settled in for the night. We left again early on Sunday and by pressing on, our jungle heroes conquered all and finished a day early. Discovering, whilst waiting for transport, how cold the Camerons can get, an issue of gunfire was ordered and everyone put two into the bank for warmers! We had two days to recover from our ordeal, and to wash our kit, and on return to work reflected on when the next jaunt into the unknown would be. All in all a strenuous adventure, but worthwhile and interesting'.

Our sister workshop 78, stationed in Kuching, has now closed on the ending of confrontation. Its members have been spread to all corners, including our own workshop.

Our recent gains include Lt C. J. Milburn (Admin Officer). 21t T. P. O'Connor, WO II (CSM) Olley, WO II Tarleton-Hodgson. Amongst our losses have been Captain I. C. Burbridge (to REME Admin Unit, Singapore, as OC) to whom we add our heartiest congratulations on his Majority, WO II (AQMS) Flynn (BAOR), WO II (CSM) Raynor (REME Trg Centre, Singapore), CPO Maloney (returning to the Royal Navy), Ssgt Miller (Wallop) and not forgetting Pte Cama RAOC, our stalwart shot putter, hammer thrower, javelin slinger and rugby player. To those, and others which lack of space prevents mentioning, we bid farewell and good luck.

It is hoped that this report will bring back pleasant memories of ex members, and enquiring letters from those 'due in'.