

75 AIRCRAFT WORKSHOP, KLUANG

Greetings once again from sunny Kluang.

Since last writing to you the workshop has seen yet more changes of organization. Our old neighbours 58 Station Workshop have been absorbed by 75. In mid December Lt Chris Green took over 58 to start the process from Captain Mike Marks, who had the unexpected honour of being home for Christmas. The absorption proceeds apace and by the time the amalgamation order is finally issued it will be well behind the times and will find the new Vehicle and General Platoon long since a going concern. By the way can any other AC Wksp boast a Veh and Gen PI, eighty strong, with amongst other capabilities an extensive 'C' Veh task?

The change has fortunately allowed the reformation of our own WOs and Sgts Mess. Luckily this is in the same premises as the now defunct Garrison Corps Sgts' Mess so all the work put in, ex members will be glad to hear, has not been wasted. In fact another group headed by WO II Godliman has done more work especially in the entrance hall. Incoming members can anticipate coming to a really comfortable and lively mess. Social events run on unshaken from the old mess, and true to our word, issued in the March issue of *The Craftsman*, our Sgts' Mess 'A' darts team is leading the field in the first league of 1967, closely followed by the 'B' team and with only five more matches to play it's almost a certain win for one or the other.

Over Christmas PEC Chief Miller pulled the stops out and the results were a draw, that can be best described as a Grand Daddy Marathon of a draw and a swinging New Year's Eve Ball. The Junior Ranks Social Club, 'The Blades' continues to function admirably with dances, games evening, darts matches, and, more recently a trip to the Tiger brewery in Singapore, which was most welcome. Since the trip I believe the sales of Carlsberg have increased considerably!

With some trepidation the committee headed by Cpl (now Sgt!) Maloney decided to throw a Fancy Dress Ball for Christmas. Response

was terrific and choosing the winners proved difficult as the standard of dress was high. After considerable deliberation the judges chose on ground of originality Mrs D. S. Hitcham (Christmas Parcel) as ladies winner and Cpl A. C. Dutta (Picasso) as gent's winner.

Our football team entered the season with a large gap to fill following the departure of skipper Sgt Brian Greaves to Hong Kong. Success in this awesome task is apparent from our unbeaten run in all league and cup games since December. The early weeks of 1967 saw us involved in the final rounds of the Garrison Cup, having fought through the qualifying games of this World Cup type competition before the rainy season. The situation aroused sufficient interest to find the whole workshop stood down, and at the Padang Kluang in support (much welcomed) of the team against first 34 Sqn GTR and then CI Wing Gurkha Engineers in the finals. On neither occasion were they disappointed as the 'Brits' proved sufficiently fit to outplay the 'Gurks' to the tune of 5-3 and 6-0 respectively, inspired, no doubt by some of the more personal comments from the stand! With these boosters behind them they are confidently looking forward to repeat successes in the Kluang Town KO Cup, having already won through to the semi-finals at the expense of the Town League champs, The Gurkha Engineers. Indeed, with a strong squad of 15 or so regular players to choose from, the toughest problem now is who to leave out!

Before we depart from the world of soccer a mention must be made of two of our team members, Cpls P. Donnison and D. Briggs, who were both selected to attend a soccer course at Terendak Camp, Malacca, preparatory to selecting a team to represent the Commonwealth Services in the second round of the FAM Cup. Both were selected. Congratulations.

Cpl Noddy Davidson and Cpl Fred Clifton entered for the 17 Div/Malaya District Boxing Championships recently and much to the delight of the whole unit Noddy became the Flyweight Champion of 17 Div. Unfortunately Fred Clifton

75 AIRCRAFT WORKSHOP, KLUANG

after a stiff bout was just outpointed but was declared best loser.

A few weeks later Noddy entered for the FARELF Championships in Singapore, and, having fought his way through the semifinal, was narrowly beaten on points in the final. A disappointment for Noddy but an excellent show considering he hasn't boxed for over two years. Congratulations from all members of the workshop to both boxers.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Sgt and Mrs Cummings, Sgt and Mrs Boulton, Sgt and Mrs Janes, Cpl and Mrs Branch and Cpl and Mrs Stent on the recent additions to their families.

We bid farewell to the following members of the unit, gone but certainly not forgotten, ASM Green, AQMS Robbins, Sgts Godwell, Dorrian, Hazell, Littlewood and Richards, Cpls Follett, Rimer, Scott, and Smallman, Lcpls Thompson, Hazlegreaves and Martin and Cfn Stewart.

Finally a big welcome to the following arrivals. We sincerely hope their stay will be a happy and interesting one: ASM Leake, WO II Herbert, WO II O'Shea, Ssgt Freeman, Ssgt Miller, Sgt Chaffey, Cpl Abrahams, Cpl Everson, Cpl Jennings, Lcpl Kift, Lcpl Summer, Lcpl Owen, Lcpl Welford and to those readers who may be posted here please accept an advance welcome, and if there's anything you wish to know about the unit, or the country, please write. However the special NEWS in this section is that the RAF have once again joined us. This is a full turn of the cycle since the RAF started off our predecessors 656 Light Aircraft Squadron Workshop. To date Chief Techs Allbutt, Andrew, Briant, Harrington, Healy, Riley, Smith, Smaize, Thomas, Whitley and Young, Sgts Cook, Nitt, Roberts, Rowland, Warne, Higgins and Jackman have arrived.

They marked their arrival in various ways including challenging the army to cricket. The two teams were skippered by Chief Tech Whitley and Ssgt Cashman and on Sunday 9 April the battle began. The weather was perfect, blue sky everywhere. The game consisted of one innings of twenty overs, each members having to bowl two

overs only. The match ended with a victory to the army by eleven runs. Special mention must be made of Sgt Lucas for his excellent batting (when he found his bat - last seen flying towards Singapore) and Chief Tech Young for his nimble fielding. Full support by unit members and their families was rewarded by an excellent cold buffet laid on by our unit caterers Lcpls Milnes and Mullis and the civilian staff. A Treasure Hunt organized by CSM Olley and Cpl Parker was won by young Alan Lucas (nine years old).

It is very pleasant for your scribe to report that this new development in the unit has gone very smoothly and greatly added to its strength. It's good to have their support once again. Final point, could it be winter back home. We seem to be having lots of visitors!