

75 AIRCRAFT WORKSHOP, KLUANG

On taking over the appointment of Chief Clerk, I was informed, much to my chagrin (Ed: Which I hope has now worn off), that henceforth I would also be designated "Unit Scribe for The Craftsman". So to continue the good name of us chief clerks here is the contribution from the sunny swamps of Kluang, Malaysia.

After much redecoration, renovation, knocking down walls and putting them back up, the Blades Club held a grand reopening social on Saturday, 2 December, 1967, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. Much praise must be given to Lcpl R. Pratt (350) and his stalwart helpers. Cfn J. Ward. Cpl R. Gallimore, Cpl J. Gibney, Cpl D. Sumner and many others, who made all this possible by their hard work in their spare time. Old members would not recognise the club now. With the new air conditioned bar it must be the best club in Malaysia, if not FARELF.

Congratulations to the following on their promotion to the ranks shown: Capt C. J. Milburn, Capt C. W. Green, Capt M. B. Hext, WO II E. Sharp, WO II R. Lucas, Sgts E. Parker, P. Donnison, R. Beadle, D. Williams, W. J. Spicer, J. T. G. Lace, J. Mitchell, P. M. Hudson, Cpls A. S. D. Cox, P. W. Dabin. R. Welford, P. Beeson. D. Sumner, C. Knight, P. Jackson. C. Pratt, L. G. Davey, A. J. Jupp, C. Redman, Lcpls D. Fellows, J. J. B. Binnie.

Special congratulations to Lt F. Olley our late CSM on his appointment to a commission and best wishes for the future.

St. Eligius Day was celebrated with a regimental dinner in the Sgts' Mess on Friday, 1 December, 1967. CREME 17 Division/Malaya District, Lt-Col R. Davies was guest of honour. The OC, Major J. H. Tomkins, and all officers were present to enjoy an excellent dinner provided by Sgt E. Slater and his able staff

The highlight of the evening was "Did ASM Frazer really do a nose-dive with his flaps down?" For those not present we would explain that a small slip occurred during mess polo.



The football team with Trophies

Cpl B. Ashurst, Pte A. Davies (RAOC), Lcpl A. Donald and Lcpl J. Forwood decided to enter the marriage stakes and we wish them good luck and happiness in the future.

Congratulations to the following on passing their upgrading courses. Lcpl R. Smith (RAOC). Lcpl D. Shaughnessy. Cpl H. Gasser. Cpl M.-H. F. Booker. Cpl M. P. Helmore. Cpl A. Kelso, Cpl A. C. Smith, Cpl R. Norbury.

Even though our workload never seems to diminish (that'll be the day) and flexy servicing now well advanced and working smoothly (?), we still find time to send our light MSRD out on exercise. The MSRD deployed to Kota Belud. Borneo on 6 November and returned on 25 November. It took them that long to get there and back and it's a wonder they found time to work.

We must congratulate the following proud parents on the addition to their families. Cpl and Mrs. H. J. Gasser. Cpl and Mrs. M. H. F. Booker, Cpl and Mrs. Cummings. Cpl and Mrs. M. A. J. Waldron.

Sport: Under the able direction of WO II R. Lucas, chief clerk, the unit soccer has flourished beyond all expectations and we now have two teams in the local civilian league, both doing well.

During the past few months the soccer team added the Kluang Garrison League Trophy to our list of silver.

In the 17 Div Minor Units KO Competition we entered our strongest side but

were knocked out by our old enemies— Gurkha Engineers—3-2.

The unit hasn't got its own rugby team but we are well represented (90%) in the Kluang Garrison XV which plays twice a week and enjoys some very good hard games. Our Garrison representatives have included, Chf Tech H. Thomas. Cpls I. Murray. D. Shord. R. Jones. C. Bull. Sgts A. Maloney, R. Fearnough. P. Donnison. and M. Wilcox. Lcpls S. Donald, P. Flaxman, M. Ball. B. Ward. P. J. Robertson. G. Laschelles. F. Chapman, R. Pullin. Pte D. Burton, 2/Lt M. G. Brooke and last but not least Capt R. Matthews. Although it seems we have more than enough players we never have them all fit at the same time. It has been rumoured that even if the Garrison XV can't play rugby, with Chf Taff Thomas leading, ably assisted by Cpl Geordie 'The Tinker' Murray, they definitely out-sing and out-drink every other team in Singapore and Malaysia.

The cricket team rounded off the season by winning the REME 17 Div/Malaya District 6 a side KO Trophy. The team was Ssgt J. Cashman (RAOC), Ssgt R. Lucas (now WO II), Lcpl P. J. Robertson, Gnr M. Pimenta (RA), Sgt J. Mitchell and Cpl D. Briggs (RAOC)—who said it was a REME competition.

Slot Car Racing: The unit has now formed a Slot Car Racing Club. With a grant of £200 and an increasing membership the club is rapidly expanding, and has plans for a 200 foot racing circuit. It makes a change from hearing choppers overhead! I haven't seen any "Stirling Mosses" yet.

Archive: Whilst having an early spring clean this year we uncovered a photograph album of 656 Sqn Wksp REME containing many interesting photographs including a few group photographs. To anyone interested, the album is now in the Photograph Section of the Corps Museum.

Over the Christmas period, life was rather hectic in the unit with socials, draws and parties being held. The Sgts' Mess had their draw on Friday, 15 December, which was highly successful due to the hard work put in by WO II C. Tarleton-Hodgson, affectionately known as

QTH. The Sgts' Mess had a fright on New Year's Eve as due to very heavy floods they nearly didn't have a band. For a change the OC decided that the lads should have an early Christmas dinner, so on Wednesday, 20 December, the cookhouse, beautifully decorated, was invaded by the officers and senior ranks. An excellent dinner was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The catering staff once more excelled themselves.

The Blades Club held their draw on 22 December, 1967. Organised by the committee - Cpl F. Chiton and Lcpl P. J. Robertson, helped out by Cpl W. Vickers (ACC), Mrs. Daphne Clifton and Mrs. Marion Vickers, an excellent evening was enjoyed by all. How come Capt C. J. Milburn—Chairman of the Committee won so many prizes!

'The Sgts' Mess was once more hosts for the Children's Christmas Party which was held on 16 December, 1967. The RQMS R. A. Smith displayed his artistic tendencies in the role of Father Christmas. All the kids really enjoyed themselves with plenty of drink, and the inevitable cartoon show, which was dominated by the parents!

Boxing Day saw an afternoon out on the sports field with a Fancy Dress Soccer/Rugby game. Officers and Senior Ranks versus the rest. Needless to say who won, but with a brief respite and refreshments, between each goal, the Rest won 3 to 1. Best dress? Capt Jock Goad RAOC resplendent in his kilt with all the trimmings.

Unfortunately there just isn't enough space in The Craftsman to name all the arrivals and departures since our last report. Sufficient to say that we wish all those posted all the best in the future and for those fortunate enough to be posted here we hope your tour will be a pleasant one.

Finally, we are now officially amalgamated with our old neighbours 58 Station Workshop.