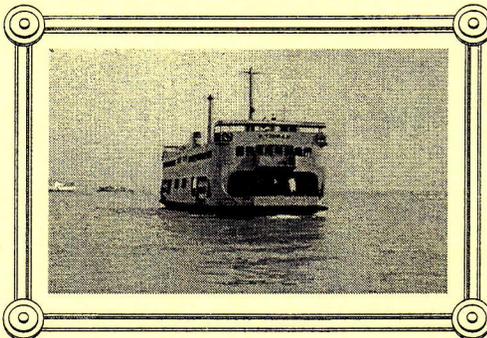


# RAF Butterworth/Penang Association



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 \* Chairman: Tony Parrini      Treasurer: John Gallop      Secretary: Pete Mather \*  
 \* (Formed: 30<sup>th</sup> August 1996 at the Casuarina Hotel, Batu Ferringhi, Penang Island) \*  
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**NEWSLETTER** **SPRING 2001**

### 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.

### Chairman's Corner

I send greetings from an area devastated by Foot and Mouth Disease. You will have seen Longtown just 4 miles away on TV and perhaps heard mention of HespiaWood burial site - this is just half a mile from my home. So I know how depressing the last few months have been for many of you. Perhaps the worst is over in Cumbria, but it will take a long time for the economy to recover. If you are taking a break away for a few days during the summer, please consider going to one of the areas hit most by this disaster. Both Devon and Cumbria have much to offer and need some financial injection. Certainly in Cumbria, there are many bargains to be had and the County is "Open for Business".

My main winter activity for the Association has been the development of the "FEAF GROVE APPEAL". The project has snowballed way beyond our original expectations. We now have the NMBVA, RAF Changi, RAF Seletar and various Squadron Associations getting their contributions together for the project. As you will read elsewhere, the first phase is paid for (7 trees with plaques and a Large Park Bench with the FEAF Crest). The aim now is to find £2500 by the end of the year so that we can order and construct a fitting memorial to all units of the FAR EAST AIR FORCE. Whether or not you have already contributed, perhaps you will consider some repayment for the happy times you spent in the Far East.

I look forward to meeting everyone again in October. I'm meeting with the other Associations at Lichfield to decide the format of the Dedication Day on 13th October. Hopefully many members of the other Associations will also be present at the dedication, so the 13th October could be quite a memorable occasion. BE THERE!!

Tony Parrini  
 Chairman

Friends of War Memorials

A letter and newsletter has been received from the Friends of War Memorials, requesting that we draw our members attention to this organisation which is engaged fulltime in the preservation of that part of our heritage marked by War Memorials (not War Graves but Memorials). If you would like a copy of this newsletter please contact Pete Mather. Alternatively, a copy of this Newsletter will be made available over the weekend 13/14 October 2001.

Christmas Ghost laid to rest after nearly 50 years

On the 25th December 1951, storeman/mechanic LAC Harry Wormald was killed in an accident with an Ambulance on RAF Butterworth. He was buried at Penang Western Road Cemetry in grave 2142 on the 27th December.

One of the people who attended the funeral was Association member John Lear, John was repatriated very early in 1952 and did not hear the outcome of the official enquiry into the death. Each Christmas since that tragic day, he has remembered Harry and wondered just how the accident happened. Some little time ago John asked if the Association could help and he was put into contact with the Air Historical Branch (RAF) of the Ministry of Defence in London.

John has since received full details of the circumstances surrounding the accident and says, "The letter is quite graphic in its description of the accident and possibly why it happened. I am now relieved to lay this ghost, which has come back to me every Christmas for the past 49 years"

Association Archivist

All members are reminded that Dave Croft is the Association Archivist. So rather than let those old photographs etc pass away and get lost with the passage of time, contact Dave who will photocopy/scan them and return them safely. This way we will build a true and accurate record of former times.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR WEBSITE???

The latest information is that our Website will be linked into [www.raf.mod.uk](http://www.raf.mod.uk) in the next few weeks. Whether or not we get a new address, our existing site will be found by going to the RAF Website shown above, then to "Links" and to "Associations". There you should find the RAF Butterworth and Penang Association listed alongside many others ..... And in you go! The Chairman has spoken to the RAF Webmaster who, as you will see if you visit the main site, is hard pushed to keep everything current. He's doing his best, poor chap!

"Survival in Japanese POW Camps with Changol and Basket"

This is a book by ex-airman Ernest G Darch based on hidden notes maintained throughout the period of his ordeal. He tells of his betrayal by the Javanese; his handing over by them to the invading Japanese and his subsequent imprisonment for nearly 3 1/2 years in Java, Singapore and Kuching (Sarawak) having reached there by hell-ships. The ISBN Number is: 0 75411-161 X. Available from Book-sellers (price £11.99).

RESTORATION OF COMMONWEALTH CRESTS AND SHEILDS AT TUGU NEGARA - THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN KUALA LUMPUR

Members may recall that I was tasked with pointing out to the Malaysian authorities, the poor state of the 200 or more Commonwealth Shields and Crests displayed in the ceiling of the National Memorial Kuala Lumpur. I am pleased to report that some progress is being made to have the area refurbished. Meetings have taken place between the British Defence Attache, the Heritage Minister and other members of the Malaysian Government. Hopefully, we will have some positive news of the restoration before long.

Tony Parrini

Remembrance Sunday - 'Cenotaph' Kuala Lumpur

Will you be in Malaysia during November this year or do you know of any ex-RAF colleagues who will? If so, are you prepared to attend a Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday 11th November 2001. If interested, please contact Tony Parrini for details.

Badged Goods



Sweatshirts - £16.25

Acrylic Jersey - £20.70

Wool Jerseys - £28.25

Polo Shirts - £15.25

Gold wire badge - £18.00

Royal thread badges - £3.75

(Penang or Butterworth crest embroidered on left breast)

Colours available for each are Royal, Navy, Maroon, Bottle Green, Red, Light Blue Black Light Grey and Yellow

Members can order direct from:

Terrane Promotions

Terrane House

Whisby Way Ind. Estate

Lincoln, LN6 3LQ

01522-697000

e-mail: sales@terrane.co.uk

Website: www.terrane.co.uk

Veterans Advice Unit

Members are reminded that the MOD Advice Unit is there to assist all former members of the Armed Forces, be they veterans of the World Wars, Korea, National Service, Northern Ireland, the Falklands or Gulf Campaigns, Bosnia, peace-time regulars or volunteer reservists, and their dependants:

Telephone: 08456 02 03 02

Do you remember?

Cpl Michael Flint ATC RAF Butterworth from 1959 to 1962. Sadly, Michael died in 1989. However, his brother Lynden would be very please to hear from anyone who knew Michael. Contact Lynden Flint, 240 Harrogate Rd, Leeds, LDS7 4QD.

### FEAF Grove Update

The RAF Butterworth/Penang Association is working with other Associations with links with the Far East Air Force, to create a "FEAF Grove and Memorial" at the National Memorial Arboretum at Lichfield. This tree planting and plaque ceremony will take place on Saturday 13th October 2001.

Sufficient funds have already been pledged to establish a grove of 7 trees with a single bench seat. Sometime in 2002 a permanent "FEAF Monument" will be built as a centrepiece. The grove will be located adjacent to the existing Far East area which, amongst others, commemorates those who died on the Burma Railway and as a result of other events in the Far East during WWII. It is felt that this is a fitting place for the "FEAF Grove".

If you would like to make a contribution, big or small to the project a donation form is attached with this newsletter. The target of £2,500.00 has been set for the second phase of the project.

### Letter from a well wisher

The following letter was received from Jane Wood in February of this year.

Dear Mr Mather,

When I happened upon the notice of the RAF Butterworth and Penang reunion in the British Legion Magazine it brought back very many memories.

I was living with my parents in Penang at the time of Pearl Harbour. Our house was on the seafront overlooking the North Channel, between the E & O Hotel and town. We watched the dog fights over Butterworth and the Channel and often wondered what happened to the pilots who were shot down and prayed they had survived. Later the Japanese had things very much as they wished and used to bomb regularly every morning. Our air raid shelter was composed of crates full of sand arranged round the base of a large casuarina tree just behind the sea wall.

May I wish you all a very happy Reunion - you deserve it.

Sincerely,

Jane Wood

(On your behalf, I have thanked Jane for her very kind letter. PM)

### Memory Lane from Don Brereton

Does anyone share these memories?

Don Brereton 0151-924 0901 or 12 Quarry Rd, Thornton, Liverpool, L23 4TB

1. Group Captain Baxter getting his ear bitten by the gibbon.
2. SWO Preston hiding in the bushes to catch airmen leaving the mess with tea in their mugs.
3. Huge figure of a camel on top of a . . . ? . . . . Christmas 1956.
4. Duke of Edinburgh's visit 1956 - same day as RAF are hitting Egyptian Airfields.
5. Any ex - RAF Bidon/Song Song people out there.
6. Remember 'Pinky' from 45 Sqn, how did he get away with wearing a gold earring in 1955/56?
7. Chin Peng the Chinese who worked in the Airmans NAAFI.
8. The RNZAF pinching 45 Sqn sign from flight line in one of their Bristol Freighters.
9. The Fire appliance getting bogged down in the sand when the Station Flight Meteor 7 had a nose wheel lock down at the wrong angle.
10. The RAFF upsetting everyone when they culled the wild dogs around the station.
11. Mrs Fleming 'the angel of Butterworth' 1955-57 of the WVS. Who was the other woman with her?
12. Did you ever go on leave in Singapore at the Toc-H or Sancles Home?
13. Remember Joe Rozells and his Hawains.
14. 'The Polished Oaf' - 2cts - The RAF Butterworth Magazine. Editor: G B Parker, Asst Eds: M S Downer & J Ives, Art Eds: AG Richardson, R E Boobyer, G Jones.
15. York Hotel Singapore (very posh now) \$2.00 Large Anchor, \$2.40 for 2 doz egg sandwiches.
16. Remember the 'Far East Transport Wing Route Guide'

I have recently been in touch with the following:

SAC Derek Timmis, MT Section 1955/56 - Billet 214 from Stoke.

SAC Dave 'Scouse' Martin, Station Flight 1955-56 - Billet 214. Dave is the one who used to play the piano in the NAAFI Bar most Friday & Saturdays. Remember the old squadron songs: The Tattooed Lady, When I was back in Blighty, etc?

If you want to get in touch with the above please ring me.

Don Brereton

(I was enjoying the above until I got to the egg sandwiches - PM)

Sorry Don, Q3 "on top of a ..... Christmas" has me beat, and this is from a man who thought he was good at deciphering senior officer scribble. Free drink for the correct answer - TP is paying.



## Sharps Roundup

e-mail from Eric & Polly Sharp:

Dear each and all,

You might like to check out the following. It is only of use if you draw a Pension, which I reckon you all do. An outfit called "Stay Warm TXU" offer Gas & Electricity utility at a flat rate per annum unmetered. I know it sounds too good to be true. They say they don't write letters, send bills, read meters (often). You just pay by direct debit or a pay book at the Post Office. The phone number to ring is 0800 1694 694. Don't be put off by an answer machine. Kick it into touch and give it another try until you get through!! Ask all the questions you like. Have by you a recent Gas and Electricity bill for customer and supply numbers plus your National Insurance No (To prove you are an old F). There is a web site to play with and it is full of good gen.

<http://www.txu-europe.com>

The table below will give you the going rates. It is worked out, number of people against number of bedrooms you have. A number of ex-apprentices round here have signed up. I reckon Joan and I will come out £15 a month better off, and not bother quite as much to turn the heater off!!

Regards. Eric & Polly

*Stay Warm*

## NO BILLS NO FRILLS NO WORRIES

There's a unique new way to heat and light your home called *StayWarm*. If you are a pensioner, *StayWarm* lets you use all the gas and electricity you need for a fixed regular payment, no matter how much you use. We don't need to send you a bill, which means you get complete peace of mind. It's the low-cost way to *StayWarm* in your area.\*

### StayWarm GAS & ELECTRICITY WEEKLY PRICING PLAN

No. of persons	Persn	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom+
1	£3.84	£5.00	£6.92	£8.07	£9.42
2	£4.61	£5.76	£7.69	£8.84	£10.19
3	£4.80	£6.73	£8.84	£10.00	£11.34
4	£4.90	£7.30	£9.61	£10.76	£12.11
5	£5.00	£7.69	£10.19	£11.34	£12.69
6+	£5.17	£8.07	£10.57	£11.73	£13.07

You can choose to pay weekly, fortnightly or monthly by direct debit or by cash at a post office if you prefer.

For example, two people living in a one bedroom home will pay only £5.76 per week for all their gas and electricity.

*StayWarm* comes from TXU, one of the world's top energy service companies. We have over 5 million customers in Britain and over 11 million worldwide.



\*Terms and conditions apply

# THE FEAF GROVE - DEDICATION CEREMONY

## Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2001

A Ceremony to dedicate Phase 1 of the FAR EAST AIR FORCE GROVE, will take place at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2001.

For members of the RAF Butterworth and Penang Association, this event will be the first part of Annual Reunion Weekend at Solihull. (See separate information with the Newsletter).

The plan is that members and their spouses should proceed direct to the National Memorial Arboretum, attend the dedication, enjoy the Buffet Lunch with members of other FEAF related Associations, and after touring the rest of the Arboretum Site, to make their way to Solihull in time to settle in at the Jarvis for our Meet and Greet and Annual Dinner.

Final details of the format of the Ceremony are being finalised. However, it is envisaged that there will be a short Dedication Service in the Arboretum Chapel, followed by the formal planting of 8 trees and the unveiling of the Memorial Bench. Medals may be worn.

FREE ADMISSION to the Arboretum will be made available to all those supporting the event on the day. Members of all the ex-FEAF organisations and their spouses and dependents will be welcome to attend. All members are therefore invited to arrive at the Arboretum from 11.30am for the Chapel Service which will commence at 12.15pm. The Tree dedication will follow, after which everyone will be welcome to a buffet lunch and then to visit the rest of the Arboretum for the afternoon.

It has been decided to accept the use of the refreshment arrangements available at the Arboretum, rather than have people navigating their way to Clubs and Pubs in the local area.

There is a small and enthusiastic organising committee who are finalising the arrangements. However, we really do need to have some idea of attendance numbers as the hire of PA Systems and other factors come into play dependent on numbers attending on this special day.

### COSTS

Some costs will be found from the FEAF GROVE ACCOUNT. However, it has been agreed that a charge of £6 per head should be made to pay for the Buffet, printing costs and other incidentals on the day.

### LOCATION

The National Memorial Arboretum is located near the A38 at Alrewas, between Lichfield and Burton-on-Trent. Access by public transport is difficult.

### ADMINISTRATION

Please consider as soon as possible whether you are attending, complete the form below and dispatch it as indicated with payment of £6-00 per head for those attending. ONLY POSITIVE RESPONSES ARE REQUIRED. Each Association will be advised the names and numbers attending by the end of September. Admission and Buffet Tickets will be issued on arrival.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

If any further advice or information is required, please contact Tony Parrini (Chairman).

**A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT IS BEING PUT INTO MAKING THIS EVENT, AS MEMORABLE AS POSSIBLE. WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US ON THIS SPECIAL DAY.**

**A L PARRINI**