

Brian Murphy—A216443—Clerk General

After Wagga

After leaving Wagga in July 1955, postings were to Williamtown, Changi, Butterworth, Richmond, Bangkok, Point Cook, Frognall, Canberra, Amberley, Tokyo and then a number of postings at Support Command; probably as a penance for the three and half years in Tokyo. This was a total of thirty-four years service. Also included were lengthy attachments to Dubbo and Woomera.

Promotion to warrant officer early in 1970 and squadron leader in 1987, having been commissioned in 1981, were happy events.

Before moving up and taking over the base from the British in July 1958, RAAF Liaison Staff FEAF Changi became Headquarters Butterworth in June. This was my first overseas posting and I was able to see a lot of the Malaya peninsula. A couple of years later and Thailand became the place to explore and get to know.

A few years back in Australia in routine jobs followed, including a very boring job at JIO in Canberra.

I escaped to Amberley and this was followed by a two-year posting to Tokyo. Once I got there, they said it was a three-year posting. When it came time to be relieved, the Navy had trouble getting a replacement and I had to stay another few months. Tokyo was good for me. I met and married a girl from Essendon and we brought home a two-year old daughter. The downside was the sudden death, in the middle of my tour, of my boss the defence and naval attaché - a forty-eight-year-old Navy captain.

After a few months leave, I reported to Support Command to find I was slotted into the officer's and airmen's promotion examination cell. A great post for someone who was completely out of touch, having rarely seen another RAAF type in the previous four years. We survived and after a couple of years they changed the promotion system and I was out of a job.

There was an answer. They called me to Canberra and offered me a commission. I said yes and soldiered on for a few more years in various jobs at Support Command.

I resigned, rested for a while and then got a job with an insurance broking firm until 1998 when I resigned. We took a tour around Europe the next year and have lived in retirement since.

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