

## Anthony Mooney



I joined the RAF as a Boy Entrant u/t Air Radar Mechanic at RAF Cosford and became an apprentice three months later. After passing out from RAF Locking as a Radio Fitter I was posted to 2<sup>nd</sup> line servicing at RAF Bassingbourn and a year later, when I got my tapes, I was moved to be the Radio Cpl at 231 OCU, which had Canberras at Bassingbourn.

When Christmas 1961 came along I was in transit at RAF Innsworth waiting for a plane to take me, via Stansted, to RAF Akrotiri where I spent 2 years on 6 Squadron, again working with Canberras. That was a good posting for me as I replaced the Wireless Sgt and ran the Radio Section. We got to make trips to Tehran, El Adem and Peshawar as part of our joint operational training with other CENTO nations.

To complete my tour I was moved to 13 MU, Akrotiri, doing 3<sup>rd</sup> line servicing for six months. That's where I came across the only ex-84<sup>th</sup> I've ever met (apart from Angus Burton who married my sister) - Titch Pratt who was also a Cpl. I left Akrotiri in July 1963 and, after the usual long disembarkation leave, was posted to RAF Yatesbury as an instructor on the Wireless Squadron. The next year saw RAF Yatesbury closing down and I was transferred to RAF Cosford with the whole Squadron.

My Irish girlfriend had fallen by the wayside some years before (to eventually marry Clive Baker) and I had met a girl from Letchworth in 1963 whilst on my disembarkation leave. We were married in October 1965 as I was being posted to a Programmed Writing Team being set up at RAF Newton. After just over 3 years, during which time I became a sergeant, I was selected for



recruiting duties, trained at Amport House in Kingsway, London and spent the next  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years at CIO Bedford, from which I went to OCTU at RAF Henlow and transferred to the Secretarial Branch.

After OCTU I was sent supernumerary to RAF Stanbridge for 6 weeks auditing the Officer's Mess accounts which were five months behind schedule, after which I went for my Secretarial training and another Supernumerary job, this time running a Skill and Knowledge Writing Team at RAF Newton. After almost a year I got a proper job as OC SSF at RAF Buchan at the beginning of 1973. That was followed by the Accountant Officers course and a posting as the Station Accountant Officer to RAF Abingdon.

That was a great job; I was promoted to Flt Lt and became OC PMS when the station reduced in size a little and the Sqn Ldr was posted. I followed her to RAFSC HQ at RAF Andover in 1975 and transferred to the new Command at RAF Brampton when SC and TC merged in 1976. That was my last tour and I left the RAF at my 38/16 point in November 1979.

I got a job as Administration Manager with a small specialist firm which did building insulation. The company was growing very fast and I was soon handling all the admin, accounts, personnel and legal matters. That one small company grew into six, with a group holding company as well. So, after 11 years I found myself as Company Accountant, Company Secretary and Director of all seven companies. It didn't last though and I was made redundant when we were snapped up by a growing conglomerate when the building industry fell on really hard times at the end of the 1980s.

I set up on my own doing teaching, accounts and anything else I could get and after a few years was head-hunted to help set up a new company to sell fax machine rolls. My boss was a Swede living in America who was brilliant at sales but not much good with admin at all. Trouble was, he was setting up similar companies across the EC (as part of a very lucrative arrangement with Amstrad) and it didn't work out very well for him so a consultant from Sweden was brought in by our Swedish and Japanese owners to rationalise all their European operations. Inevitably this led to redundancy again and I went back to working for myself doing accounts and

teaching.

About 1989 I had a nervous breakdown as the result of a difficult marriage and as I grew out of it I separated from my wife after almost 30 years and two children together. I gradually took up with a friend of mine called Judith, bought a small house (neither of us had any money at the time) in Moggerhanger where we still live. Judith is so good to be with and every day with her is a happy one. We got married in September 2006.