

Posting to No 77 Sqn 1970 - BEST TIME EVER

Brian White

I joined 77 Squadron in 1970. I was in Airframes section with Dave 'grumpy' Grimmond and 'one ball 'Hall as NCOs. I was a rugby league player so I was welcomed immediately and made many friends in the section and in 77 gunnies.

Many hours were spend in the Mirage D servicing hanger, but the best job was on the flight line. Dressed in shorts, giggle hat and T boots and rugged up in winter, I learnt many a card game in those times, Night flying was great as we got to organise our own meals using the biggest steaks we could find in the mess.

One highlight was being involved in the aerobatic team THE DELTAS as ground crew. One of my duties was to strap/release a pilot from the Aircraft. During one display, one incident stands out. As the pilot was leaving the cockpit, I tried to speak to him but this was at the Canberra display (very official) and he must have been in awe so he proceeded to climb down walk across the tarmac with his life raft strap still attached. Suddenly he realised and discretely? unclipped leaving a long orange trail behind.

For the pilots involved there were many hours of work and those hours were equaled by the Ground Crew. One of those was



Dave Grimmond, Flight Sergeant. Of all the 77 framies, I was fortunate to work with Dave in the development of the smoke system used in the Deltas. This involved a lot of piping to turn the ammunition module into an oil tank and pipe a line to the rear of the a/c on the exterior. The system was initiated by switching on the gunnery system. Many hours were put in to work out the timing of the smoke system

1973 - swimming at Berry Springs.

While on these displays all were very busy with repairs, practice and packing/unpacking equipment so not much emphases was placed on dress regulations (especially haircuts) which all ground crews enjoyed but not so for the local base members.

Another memory which I am sure is shared by many were the deployments to other bases especially Darwin.

It was the early 70s (hippy time), I am sure the ground crew members of the "short hair wig wearers" will remember how hard the giggle hats had to be pulled down to ensure the look was right.



In the latter years great times were had in our new base living quarters (the old WRAAF building) - all single rooms with 1 entertainment room very cramped with about 10 lads, one large tv set, 1 large chest of drawers acting as an esky in action most afternoons. Luckily we lived across the road from the base drinking hole. I was the only framie amongst a building full of gunnies. A most wonderful time was had by all involved. I was offered a free trip to Butterworth just prior to my term of enlistment was finishing but this required me to increase my term

Ron Davie (sparrow)

of service which I rejected in Feb 1974. A decision I spent many hours thinking about in later years,

Luckily for me things turned out great and I have just retired from the coal mining industry after 36 years, have the same wonderful wife I married in 1973. After many various stages in my life, I consider my service life "the best time ever"

I hope any member from this era in my life will contact me.

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Photos of the 1972 No 77 Sqn Team are over next 3 Pages.





