



Service History of
681793 SAA John I R (Ivor)

7th May 1956 to April 1986



1956-1959	RAF Halton	Technical Training Command	Apprentice Training (Engine Fitter)
1959-1961	RAF Cranwell	Flying Training Command	2 nd Line Servicing – Vampire FB Mk 6 & T Mk 11
1961-1964	RAF Seletar	Far East Air Force	2 nd Line Servicing – Beverley C Mk 1
1964-1967	RAF West Raynham	Transport Command, 38 Group, No. 54 Squadron	1 st Line Servicing Hunter F Mk 6, FGA Mk 9 and T Mk 7
1967-1970	RMAF Kuala Lumpur	Royal Malaysian Air Force Secondment. No: 4 Squadron.	1 st Line Servicing HP Dart Herald.
1970-1977	RAF Odiham	Air Support and Strike Commands	ASF 2 nd Line Servicing Wessex HC Mk 2 and Puma HC Mk 1
1977-1983	RAF Northolt	Strike and Support Commands	1 st Line Servicing Visiting Aircraft Section. RAF CCF School Liaison Duties within London area, detached to RAF Northolt from HQ Cadets, RAF Newton.
1983-1986	RAF St. Athan	Support Command	No.8 Engine Repair Squadron. Adour and RB 199

RANK ON COMPLETION OF SERVICE

Flight Sergeant

AWARDS



Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
 Pingat Jasa Malaysia



CIVILIAN CAREER AND ADDITIONAL STORIES

Missive provided by Ivor:

My last RAF tour of duty at RAF St Athan was as FS i/c Repair Flight at 8 Squadron (Engine Repair & Overhaul Squadron -EROS). EROS took modules from the Jaguar Adour engines and the Tornado RB199 engines. This was at a time that the Tornado aircraft was getting into full operational mode. Within the Repair Flight was a Repair Development Team of Trade Group 1 (Engines) and Trade Group 5 (Workshops) SNCO's. We helped develop repairs in conjunction with Rolls Royce as they were the design authority. As the RB199 increased in flying times, various faults/repairs began to show. One of these was the HP Turbine Guide Vane. This was to prove to be a specialist repair, so a few industrial companies made their way to St Athan. One which was to pursue a repair was Turbine Services of Hatfield. Over my time at St Athan I made good friends of the Turbine Services Management Team. When I announced my retirement, on PVR, to them, they immediately offered me a job at Hatfield.

The job at Hatfield was the Logistics Manager covering a multitude of responsibilities. I had my own budget to control but the monthly return I received also covered the general going results for the company. The company was the UK arm of an American firm. The President of the company flew in every month on Concorde and left in the evening by Concorde. After a few years I realised that things were getting tight so I started to look for another job. I had been called for an interview with a company in Southall. Whilst I was awaiting the result of the interview, the President flew in and because our results were 10% down for the year, 10% of the workforce had to go. It was based around Managers, 5 in all plus supervisors. So my time at Turbine Services was over.

I was called for a second interview at Southall. The company was called Attewell Microshims. They produced peelable shims for the aerospace industry. I was given the job, Production Manager which meant I had about 80% of all the staff. The company was a member of the Pillar Group of engineering companies which were owned by RTZ, the world mining company. The company was run on the lines of a family business. The Group required the company to make profits and took a percentage otherwise we could spend the money to develop processes and upgrade plant etc. We produced all the sheet material on site to be able to produce the required shims. We covered the UK and EU market. There was only one other company in the UK that competed with us for work but we produced some specialist material shims that were unique. Production covered making the sheets, hand pressing shims for small batches, Power pressing for large batches, lathe, machine milling and chemical milling. Whilst in the RAF at Odiham, John Burt and I went to Farnborough Technical College and obtained our HNC in Mechanical Engineering. I pursued my studies post RAF and obtained a BA via Open University. This is an important part of this story as when I took the job at Southall I only had an HNC. I enjoyed my time at Southall the MD was a great individual and we worked well together, to the point we were doing that well, he got promoted and moved on. The new MD and I didn't see eye to eye and he was awkward to work with. To show I am not lying, at the first works Christmas function he attended one of my staff read him his fortune and swung a punch at him, which floored him. Next day I had to fire the guy. He took us to tribunal but lost on the grounds since the company was paying for the complete function, it was considered to be a place of work and the necessary company protocols took place i.e. you could not hit the MD. The MD now wished to introduce a General Manager and do away with my position. He advertised the position and I met the all the criteria, to his surprise. The fact that he made the job degree level and I had not upgraded my profile at the company since obtaining the BA, it came as a surprise to him. He had lined a mate from Group HQ to take the job. I took redundancy as I couldn't work with him in any capacity.

At about the same time as my redundancy, my daughter and her husband started a computer brokerage company, buying and selling second hand computers and components. I joined them in the venture, but after about a year they went onto a new venture.

I took on the business and ran it until 1995 when I either had to expand or give up the business. To expand, the bank wanted our home as guarantee, no way was this going to happen. So I sought employment again. I started with a company called ATM, they were based at Loudwater, Bucks. ATM was a computer maintenance company covering the UK. I joined the purchasing department. It was manic, sourcing parts from various brokers, just like my business had been. My contacts enabled me to settle in immediately. I was happy just doing the job but restructuring meant I eventually had to take on some responsibility for other staff. I worked there for over nine years and retired from there.

Being a Halton Apprentice gave me a sense of being part of a community and this came out once I had left the RAF. I became involved in my local Residents' Association, Ruislip Residents' Association covering 8,000 households of which about half subscribed as members. I took on the "Police" role and immersed myself in it. My very first Police area meeting with various groups in the area, the Chairman of the meeting came over and said "Welcome, you are the next Chairman". I asked how that worked and he said because you are an ex "Brat". I was wearing my Haltonian tie and so was he. He was Ralph Mills 66th. So I moved on becoming Chair of the Hillingdon Community and Police Group. Being invited to attend so many meetings over the years on various police/crime matters, going to all sorts of places from Scotland Yard to attend Commissioner Meetings to attending "Gold" meetings at the local nick regarding murders etc.

When I was running my own business I joined the Federation of Small Business, eventually being voted as the Hillingdon Chair. I was also Chair of the Hillingdon Business Club. Also for three years I served on the BBC London Regional Audience Council. Most people are not aware of these groups that are all around the UK. I was one of 16 individuals in London who had to review certain aspects of BBC programming and general public concerns. As a Council we attend all "Question Time" programmes that happened in London. We were required to mingle with the audience prior to them entering into the auditorium and ask what any of their thoughts were on the BBC. That was always interesting. We also undertook "Out Reach" work going to schools and various groups to undertake reviews. I loved my time in the role, meeting so many different people and going to so many different events and places.

I have been involved in many other things but I have now retired from most but still try to keep in touch with what goes on.

Being the 83rd Entry Secretary is enough for now.

PS. I am a Gillingham Football Club season ticket holder. Someone has to support them.