



Service History of  
**682040 AA Moon J (John)**  
7<sup>th</sup> May 1956 to 1964



1956-1959	RAF Halton	Technical Training Command	No: 1 School of Technical Training. Apprenticeship graduating as Junior Technician Armament Fitter
1959-1960	RAF Gaydon	Bomber Command – No. 232 OCU	1 <sup>st</sup> Line Servicing – Victor and Valiant mainly loading / unloading 'dummy' H bombs.
1960-1962	Various	Technical Training Command	Bristol Bloodhound Mk. 1 guided weapons training at RAF Yatesbury, BAC Bristol, Ferranti in Manchester (billeted at RAF Wilmslow) and RAF Newton.
1962-1964	RAF Woolfox Lodge	62 Squadron, Fighter Command	Servicing Bloodhound Mk 1 missiles and launchers.
1964			Bloodhound Mk 1 missiles became obsolete. On posting to a Vulcan Squadron applied for and granted discharge by purchase (£350.00).

**RANK ON COMPLETION OF SERVICE**

Corporal



## CIVILIAN CAREER

In 1965 migrated to Australia as a ten pound pommie.

Joined CRA in 1965 (now Rio Tinto, mining company) working as a self-taught assayer / mineralogist on Stradbroke Island, Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands, Indonesian Island and finally Perth, WA. The last twenty years were spent helping to evaluate the Argyle diamond mine and the exploration for other diamond prospects. Retired in 2002.

John says he looks back with nostalgia for my time in the RAF and remembers with affection the many young men I knew at Halton and at 62 Sqn. The wide range of training in so many technical fields has been of great service to me in my civilian life.

John's enduring memory of RAF Yatesbury is of a collection of almost derelict wartime wooden huts, without heating or hot water, on Salisbury Plain and we were there in mid-winter. The only washing facilities were a row of basins under a lean-to roof. It was the only time I have shaved in cold water whilst wearing a great coat and standing in snow.