

No 1 (B) Squadron R.A.F.

R.A.F. Tengah

Singapore Malaya.

30 October 1954.

My dearest Tuppy,

Unless the mails go completely mad this letter should reach you about 6th or 7th. Happy anniversary darling and all my love. Sorry I can't be with you for it but we will do better next year. I sent a small parcel down, registered air mail. Posted it on 28th Oct. so it should get there about the right day. Hope you like it.

Got a pleasant surprise yesterday to get another letter from you a couple of days before I expected it. You apologize for it being a commercial sort of letter but it is just what I want. It does help if I know the sort of things you like.

I am afraid the car deal is not for us. There are two features about the car market here. First it is a free port and there is no import duty on cars. However, unless you have a car in your possession here for 12 months you

have to pay full import duty to get it into Australia. We have had a couple of cases of chaps who bought cars here (ground staff tour is 15 months) and were posted home early, in one case at 11 1/4 months and they had to pay full duty. This of course makes the price the same as Australia for new cars except that it costs an extra \$100 for freight and insurance to get the car home. The other feature is that cars being plentiful and cheap, and the wealthy Chinese being gluttonous and wanting the latest and best of everything big American cars Buicks, Cadillacs, Fords etc. are cheaper here than at home on the second hand market. There are catches here also as the local maintenance of cars is shocking and the moist salty air is very corrosive so generally speaking they would not last as long as a similar car at home. In addition full import duty would have to be paid in my case, and as this is based on the value of the car in Australia and not the cost here, it is heavy. A third point

is that a car would be of no use to me here as I have a staff car. Summing up, anyone here for over a year can have the use of a car while they are here, ship it home, and by putting up a bond of £400 not to sell it for three years save £300 to £400. Anyone here for less than a year pays about £100 more to land a new car in Australia and more or less breaks even to land a second hand car but the car will probably not be as good as a similar second hand car bought at home. So unless you want me to stay for another year I am afraid it is not on.

Interested to hear that we have some more months to feld. I wonder if we can get a tax reduction. Glad to hear that you are slouking yourself a little holiday and hope the weather does the right thing for you.

Since last writing I notice that one of my towels is loosing a few threads so will delay buying any more until I see what happens. Another I bought which is 3' x 5' seems

to be wearing better.

Have not seen any English dinner sets around but no doubt they are available in Singapore. Still have not had a chance to do a trip in there during business hours. There always seems to be some flying to do or someone to meet. This coming week I have the CAS (plus Ivor Roberts who will be staying here for 3 days) and Col. George Harf the C.O. of the new Jungle Training School in Queensland.

Had a visit from the RAF CFS Examining team last week. They flew with us and were very complimentary. Assessed the Squadron as being well above average, captaincy and crew co-operation of a very high standard, aircraft in spotless condition, morale high and spirit among ground staff excellent. Was very gratified especially as they said some nice things about the other Squadron.

Must finish now dear. An extra amount of love from you  
Hugh