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There wasn't a Married Quarters available for us at first and so the RAF put us in a local motel and then we were moved to a house, I can't remember where it was, but I do remember that it was on stilts. Finally they had a married quarters for us and we moved into a bungalow on Green Lane where many of the other RAF families were living and it was nice to be back among them. We inherited a lovely, elderly dog with the bungalow. Her name was Waggy and we were informed that she had lived with the various occupants of Green Lane that came and went over the years. We, in turn, left her with our neighbours when we moved on. She seemed to just take it all in her stride and all the kids there loved her.

Across the road from Green Lane was a rubber plantation and I found it fascinating to watch when they came to collect the sap from the trees. At the end of the lane was a small playground with swings and a slide. While we were there some local builders started building some more houses behind us. One evening during a bit of a storm the wall they had built at the back of us collapsed and frightened the life out of us. There was a terrible tragedy as well when a small child from one of the families went missing (I think it was a little girl, but not 100% sure). Everyone joined the search for her and she was found at the bottom on a deep hole/well that the builders had dug. Tragically she had drowned in the small amount of water that was in there.

I was 5 years old when we went out to Penang so I started at the Minden Barracks BACS straight away, but Susan was still too young and she went to the Kindergarten instead. An Army bus would come to pick us all up in the morning and bring us back to Green Lane later. The girls had to wear green-and-white gingham dresses and our mothers either made them or had them made for us, so they all differed slightly as you can see in the class photos that are already on the website. I definitely remember the chocolate and strawberry milk as didn't like milk but was happy to drink it when it came strawberry flavoured! I also have a vague memory of, on at least one occasion, a helicopter landing not far from the school and 'kicking-up' lots of dust which flew into our classroom and covered everything as we had large windows that were open due to the heat, of course. I'm sure I haven't imagined that, but I can't check with anyone whether that would've happened as both my parents have now passed away.

Like all the other military families we had an Amah, she was a lovely young girl in her twenties called Ong. She used to stay late sometimes and look after us when mum and dad were going out. I remember Susan and I having to practise how to walk in flip-flops as we'd never had anything like them before! Then there were the times when a snake was discovered in the house, but they were usually disposed of fairly quickly, thankfully. I can't forget the little red ants that seemed to be everywhere in the garden and would sting you.

I've enjoyed reading all the other memories that have been posted on here and was glad to see that the Cold Storage was mentioned more than once. Whenever we went into Georgetown mum and dad would take us to the Cold Storage as I treat. I loved going there as it was so lovely and cool inside. I seem to remember it being known as the Cold Storage but wasn't sure if that was right as it seemed a strange name for a café/diner. I also have a memory of going round a sort of open-air market which I believe was in Georgetown. It's not a particularly vivid memory but what is vivid is the smells of all the food that was being cooked on the various stalls.

Another treat was to be taken to the beach. The one we went to was called Golden Sands; it was lovely, but I distinctly remember having to watch out for jellyfish in the water and someone did get badly stung while we were there one time.

Oh yes, and there were the chit-chats that others have already mentioned. My particular memory of them, though, is that they could shed their tails and once my little sister, Lisa, was old enough to toddle around she took great delight in grabbing hold of one whenever she could and holding it by its tail until it dropped off!! She's been an annoying little sister ever since – even now when she's a grandmother.....!!

Susan joined the school as soon as she was old enough and we had one friend who I remember was called Helen, but I can't remember her surname. She used to come on days out with us and we all went to each other's birthday parties. Does anyone else remember their parents hiring swings and slides and roundabouts, etc., to have in the garden for your birthday party? I have some photos somewhere of us playing on them.

Susan and I also attended the Sunday School that was held on the barracks and dad taught us to swim in the swimming pool there too. I remember having some fun times at the swimming pool. Mum took us to the hospital there whenever we were ill, or when we were due to have our injections; I remember that the doctors were Australian but I didn't know why at the time.

Of course the monsoon season always came around and I could never understand how it could still be so warm even though it was raining so heavily. Susan and I used to like to sit at the front door and watch through the grid as the cars and lorries drove through the floods on the road outside.

Yes, it's a time that I remember with great fondness and am so glad that I found this website. Thank you so much for setting this up and giving us somewhere to share our memories and our photos with others who had similar experiences. I, for one, am happy to hear from anyone who was there around the same time as I was and I really hope that others find this site and add their memories too.

*Jackie Jenkins (nee Claret)*

#### **Photo Descriptions**

1. My Dad in his dress uniform
2. The Claret family
3. From left to right: Me, Lisa and Susan in our front garden in Green Lane (you can see the rubber trees in the background)
4. From left to right: Susan, Lisa and Me
5. The front of our Married Quarters on Green Lane
6. The Kindergarten class photo. Susan is the second from the left on the row that is second from the front. I don't know the names of any of the other children or the teachers.
7. Susan and me in our gingham school dresses (Lisa can just be seen behind the grid on the front door)
8. One of the social evenings that mum and dad went to.
9. Susan and I having fun in the swimming pool.
10. During Monsoon Season when the roads and all the gardens were flooded