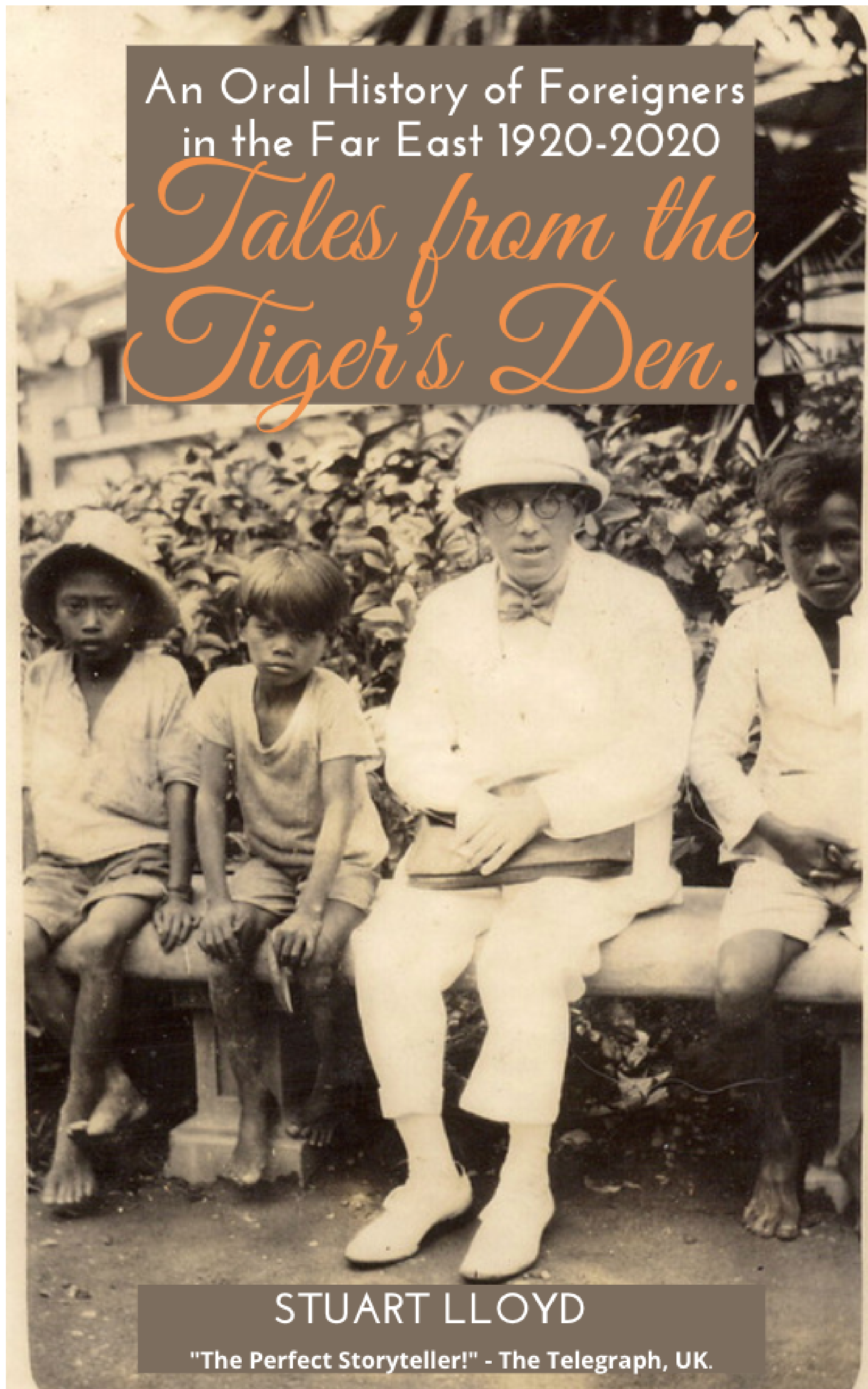


# New from Stuart Lloyd.



Enjoy this time capsule of Asian colonial history, 100 years of adventures told first-hand ...

# Gerard Maupome.

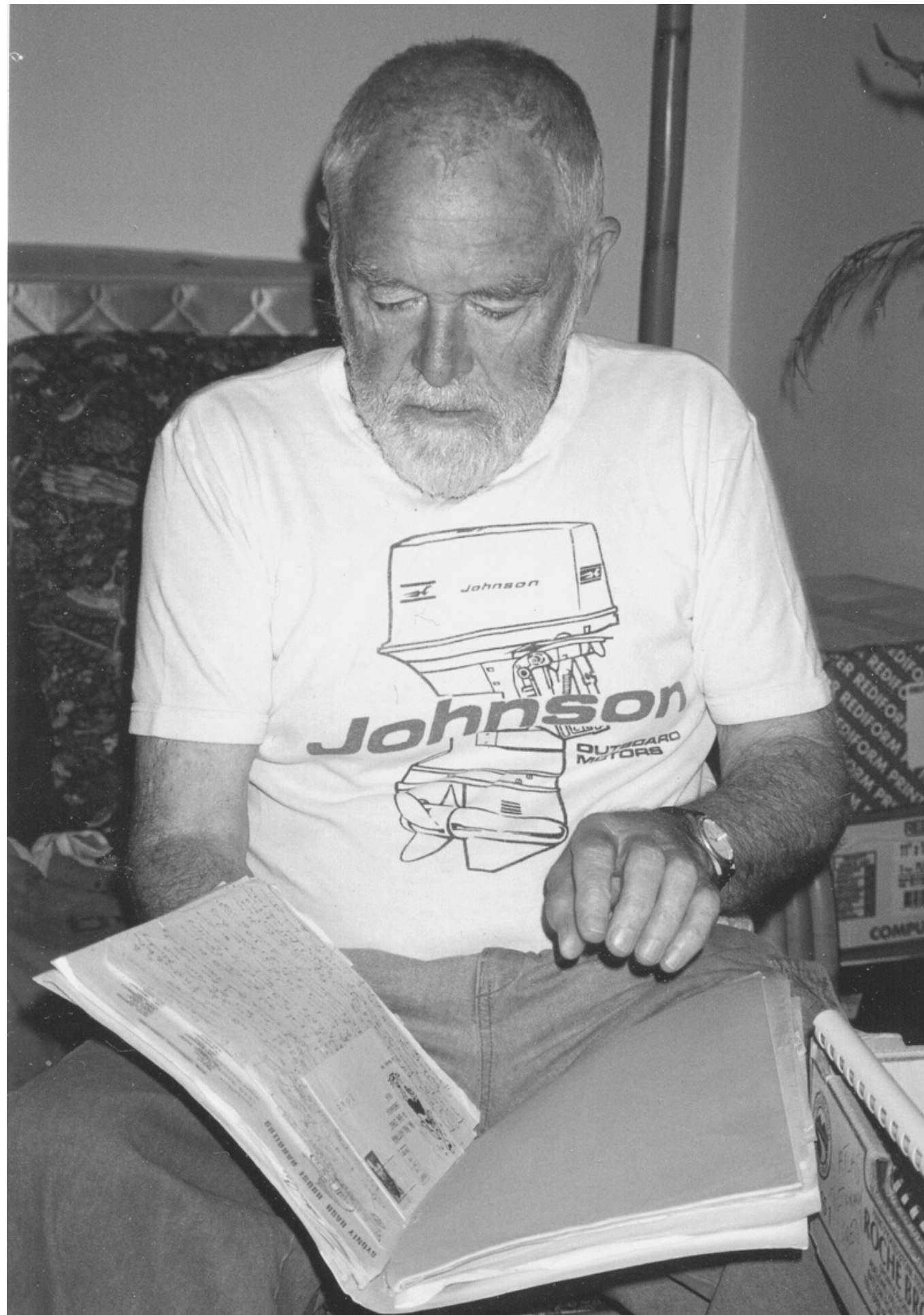
**Hong Kong and Taiwan, 1975–1984,  
Singapore and Vietnam 1988–1996.**



**They told me, as you are coming from HK, make sure in  
your belongings there is no sign showing product you are bringing in is made in  
mainland China. So my wife had a big job for about a week cutting off all  
labels from T-shirts. Even books we had to make sure there was no mention of China.  
The customs opened the container. I'd bought my daughter a small bike and on  
the front was a small sign: Made in Shanghai. They confiscated it immediately.  
It was under martial law you see.**

# Fred Whitaker.

**Singapore 1961-67.**



**I became their 'Man in Asia' and because I was the only bugger posted in the region I used to be entertaining ministers of the crown and mandarins.**

**The responsibility! And I never made one cent in those three years.**

**A married man with three kids, filling out an expense form for reimbursement each week. I spent three years filling out expense claims, everything from flowers for a funeral to condoms.**

# Geoff Thwaites.

**Irian Jaya 1958, Vietnam 1966-7, Indonesia 1968-9,  
Papua 1970-1, Indonesia 1972 – present.**



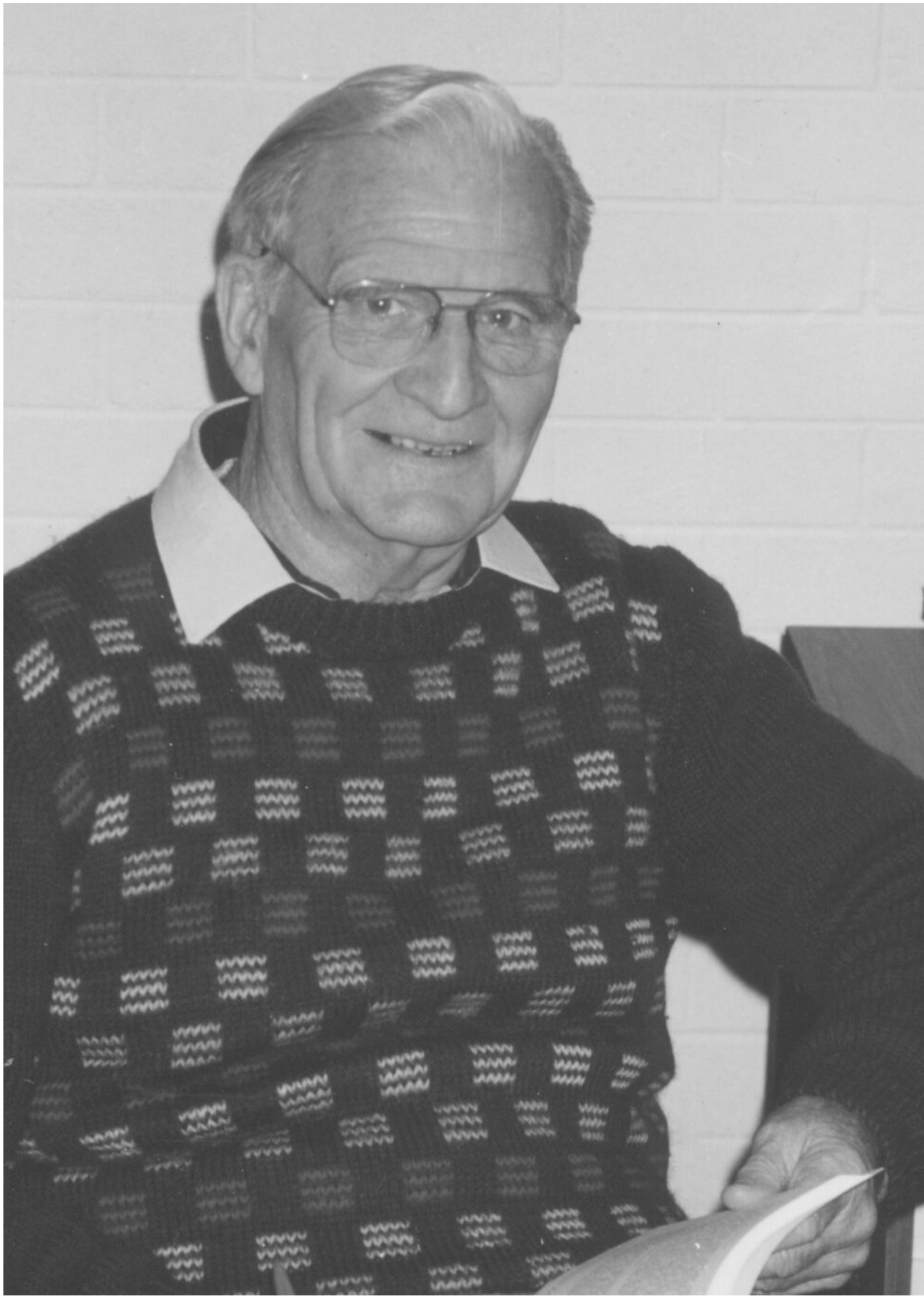
(Geoff and Syam in festive mode. Photo @gethwaites)

I went there with \$2000, an overnight bag, a screwdriver, a pair of pliers, a bloody multi-meter, and very big balls. That was my capital. No work permit, no nothing – I just went there. I rented a small garage at a bloke's house. It had a toilet at the back of it. So I was living there with no money, living on luck. A few years later I had 27 expats and 2000 locals working for me.



# Brother John Cleary, FSC.

**Papua 1966-1970, Philippines 1971-4, Vietnam 1974,  
Philippines 1987-1992, Myanmar 1992, Vietnam 1993,  
Papua New Guinea 1995-2000.**

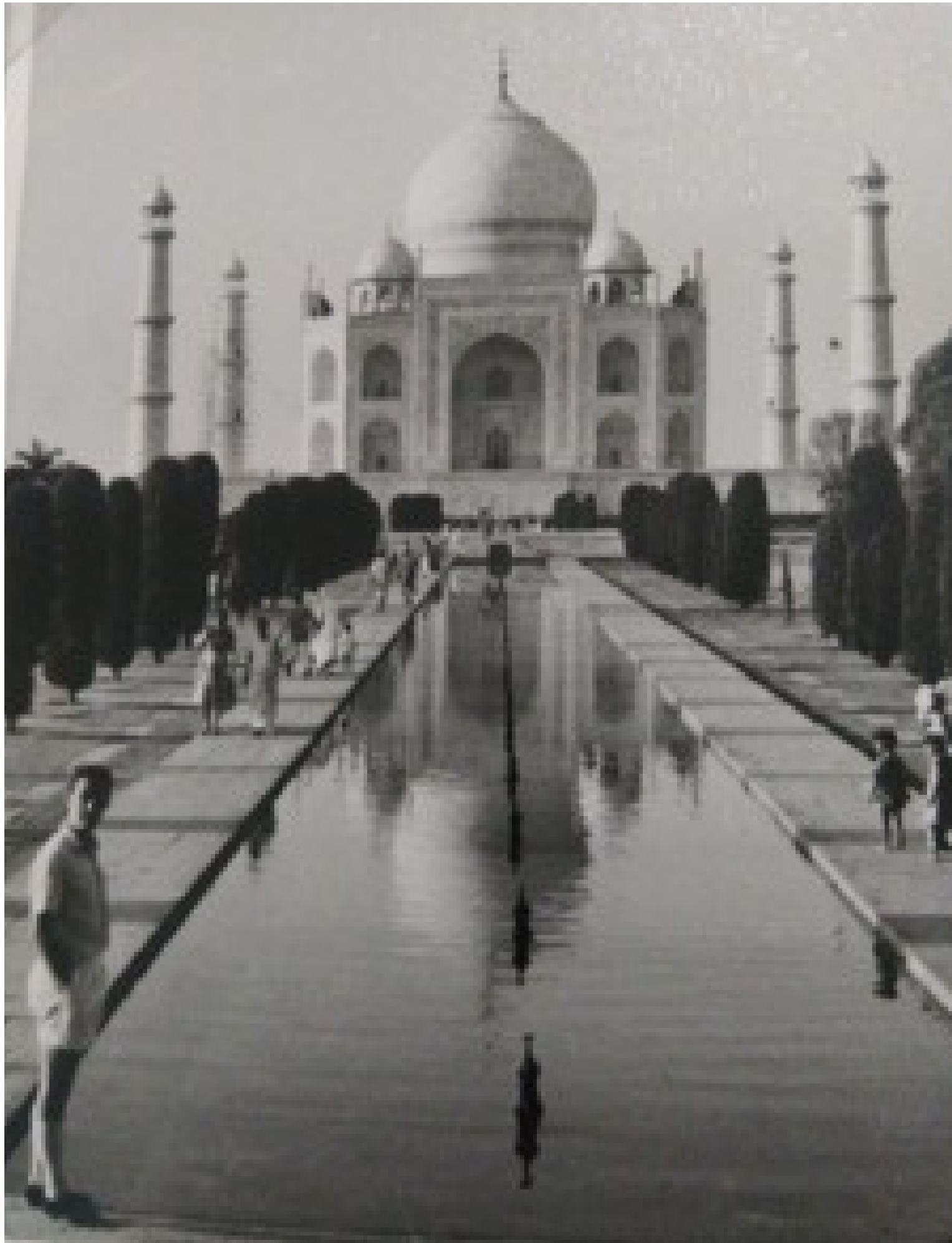


(The well-read Brother John in 1992.)

Slogans about 'People Power' and the 'Power of Love' covered shops, walls, buildings. Soldiers bedecked with leis of sampaguita (their national flower) and with yellow ribbons tied around their helmets walked along in a leisurely manner. Helicopters flew low overhead spraying the crowd with confetti, prayer pamphlets, flowers, etc. I have never been in such a crowd all my life. After the concert was a mighty fireworks display – an extravaganza of colour and creativity.

# John Quin.

**India 1959-62, Malaysia 1963-64, Singapore 1964-65,  
Malaysia, 1965-69, Japan 1970-78, India 1996-99.**

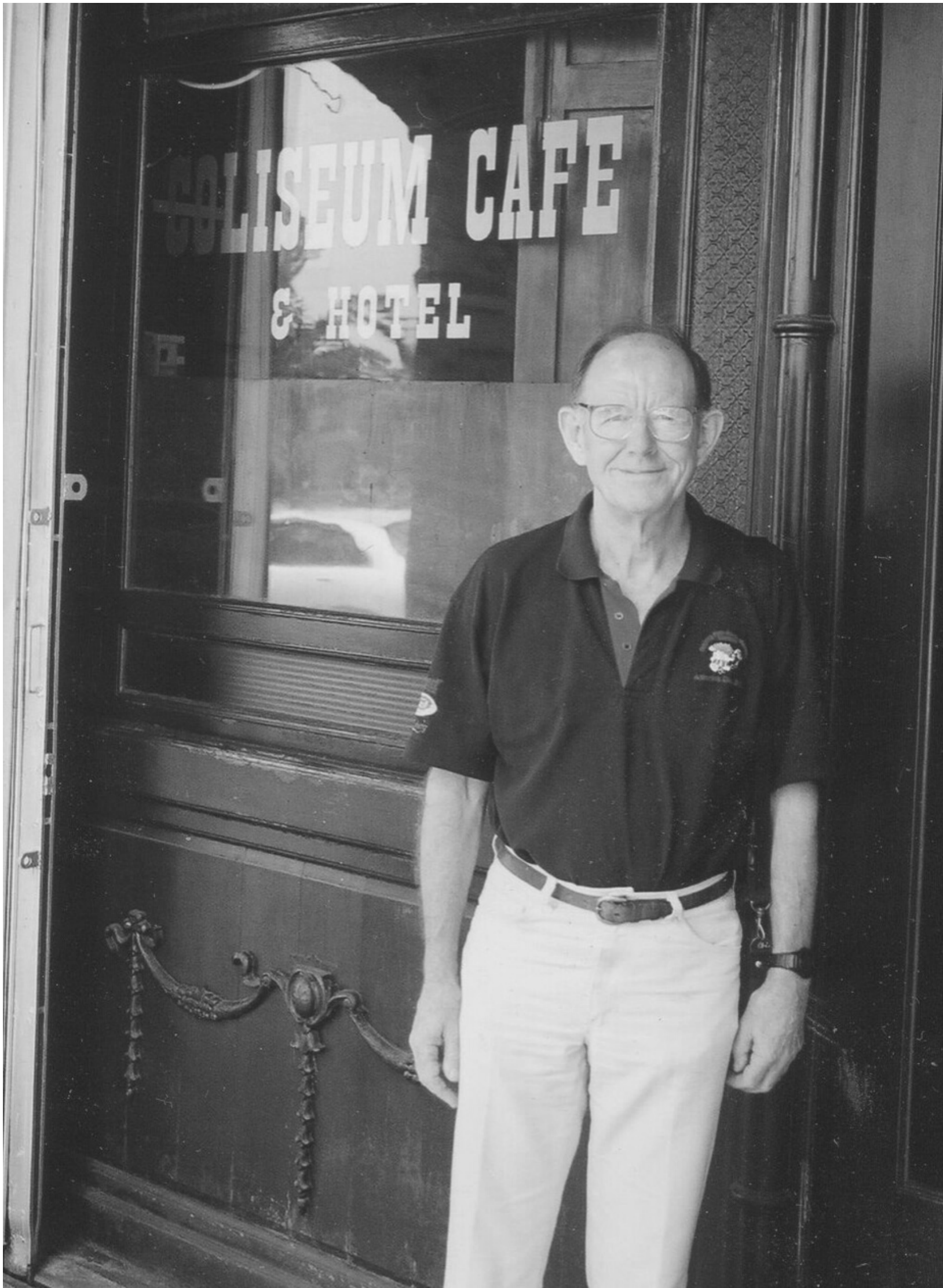


(Visiting the Taj Mahal, circa 1960.)

After game sessions were always marked by a mammoth tandoori meal at a Park Street restaurant or a wide selection of hot snacks -- samosas, pakoras, aloo chops -- brought in by the club servants from street vendors who swarmed around the club gate, well aware that the Saturday cricketing sahibs would give them the best business for the week.

# John Duncan.

**Malaya 1954-5, Borneo 1959-60, Malaysia 1961-2017.**



The big companies that were represented here at the time had strict rules on young men ... lovely girls in Sabah, and lads from the big companies couldn't go near them. I could make my own rules, so I did.  
It ended up with the catholic priest writing to my head office in Singapore. I was in serious shit at that point. It was great.

# Walter Lee.

Japan, 1951 — present.



(Walter, 88, in a Tokyo cafe. Photo: Andrew Sheppard)

After you've finished the medical now you go to the chaplain, real nice guy. We were talking: 'Well what does your family think of you marrying a Japanese? It's just like taking home a bad disease!' That's what that asshole said, the chaplain.

My wife later said, 'He's such a nice guy', but when I told her what he said she was ready to go back and kill him.



# Brigitte Opfer.

Bangkok 1948-58, Jakarta, 1958-60.



(Brigitte and Werner celebrate new year's eve in Bangkok 1948)

At 3 o'clock in the morning I looked and underneath the table was a pile of bottles: everybody came to us and bought a bottle along, then they left and somebody else came. It was unbelievable, the amount of booze! One of the mothers of one of the girls wrote from England: 'Well it's so nice to have all these photographs but why do you always have a glass in your hand?'



# Derek Mitchell.

**Singapore 1946-63, Malaya 1963-5,  
Malaysia 1970-2, Singapore 1973 - present.**



**Dad knew the test pilot on the first Comet that came out. ‘Come on, dad, let’s go meet it.’ You could walk up to a fence, lean on it, and the plane was parked a few metres away. When people left on leave you’d go there – Cheeriebye! And they’d walk out to the plane and everybody would kiss over the balcony.**

**Now, they strip search you, and stick a finger up your arse to make sure you haven’t got anything there.**

# B.L. 'Rusty' Kucharyski.

**The Philippines 1946 – 2005.**



**Bang! Bang! Bang! on my door and, God, here's a lieutenant from the Philippine Constabulary. I thought, God now what have I done? He wanted to know if I was the crocodile hunter. Yes I'm your man. He said, 'What kind of guns do you have?' I told him I had a GI Carbine 30 calibre, and 1200 rounds of ammunition.**



# Nigel Hankin.

India 1945-2007.

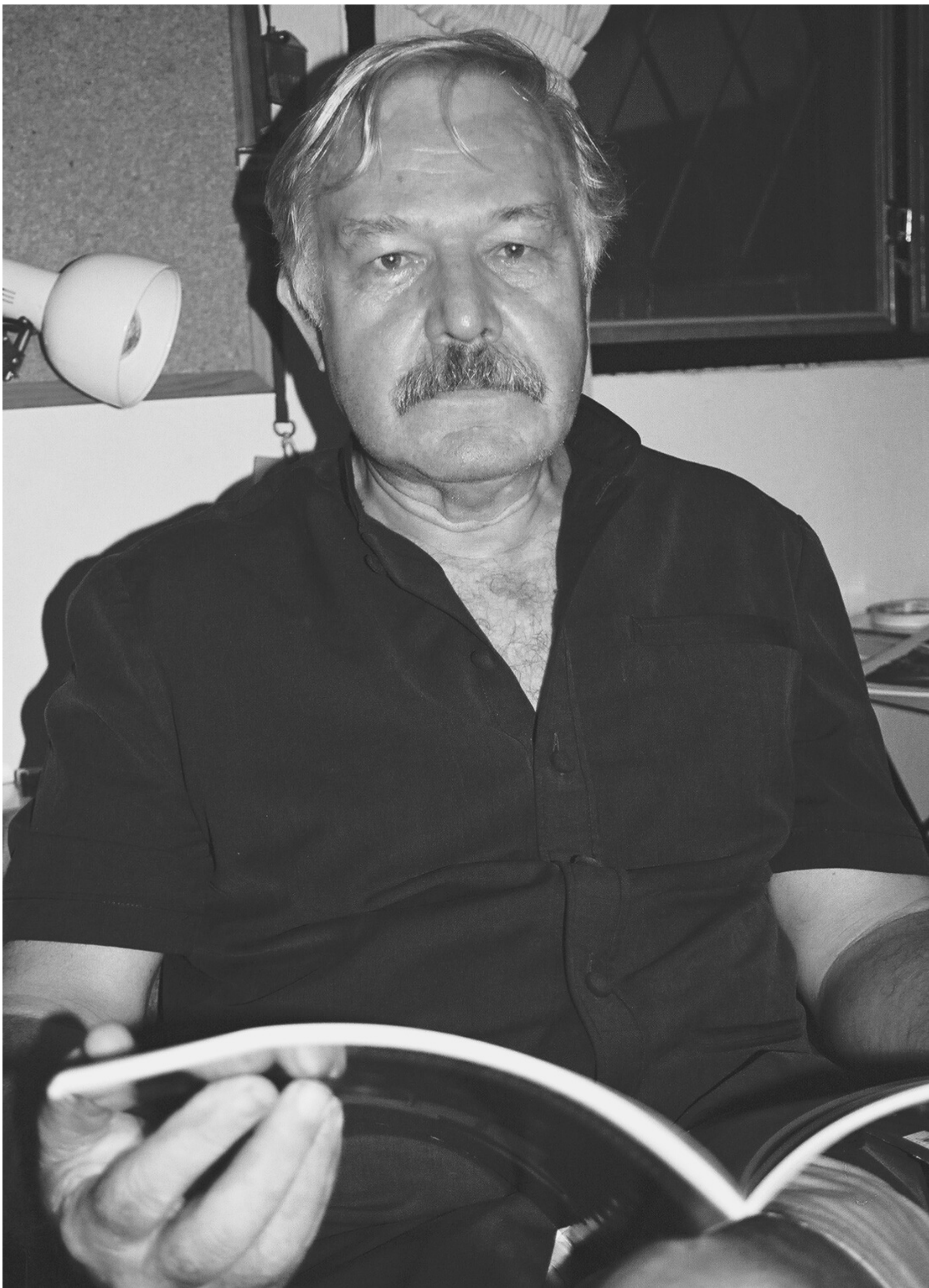


The government of India in the '50s decided there were too many British statues. They could have tossed them in the river, instead they asked the other cities to send their colonial relics to Delhi. But the other states refused to send them. They were mostly destroyed or, in the case of Madras, they kept Queen Victoria and others on display in their city. It is the end of the Empire.



# Harold 'Steve' Stephens.

**Japan 1945, China 1945–8, Bali, Singapore, Thailand 1960,  
Thailand 1965-70, Singapore 1971-5, Thailand 1976 - present.**



**Two shots rang out. He put his pistol to my chin. 'How many soldiers are you?' I responded in Mandarin: Only three of us, we came for the children. 'Why do you speak Chinese?' I explained I was a student in the northern capital and he lowered his pistol. He offered me a cigarette from my dead friend's pack. Men came with rope and tied my hands.**

# Richard 'Dick' Lee.

**India and Malaya 1941, Singapore 1942-3,  
Thailand 1943-4, Singapore 1944-5.**



(Gunner Dick Lee paying respect to his fallen comrades)

**We had a bleedin' rough time. I was only up there just over a year  
and we went up 7000 and came back about 3000, just over.  
It was just the luck of the bleedin' draw who came out of it.  
Lady luck was on my shoulder.**

# Major Roy Hudson.

**India 1941, Burma 1942-5, Thailand, Singapore, Malaya 1945-6,  
Hong Kong, Malaya 1949, Singapore, Malaya 1951, India, Nepal 1952-3, 1956-7,  
Hong Kong 1958-9, Thailand 1959-2019.**



**Everything for me seems to be roads leading to Thailand.**

**The first time I ever heard about Thailand was when I was about 8 years old in Buenos Aires at school, the singing master said, Right the lesson today is we're going to sing the Thai national anthem, O Wattana Siam.**

**The second thing was at boarding school in Cramney, Surrey, at the age of 12, on Sundays you were allowed out in the country. And I went out for a walk and we saw a gentleman walking towards us, walking stick, homburg hat, dressed very well, nice brown shoes and a dark complexion.**

**That was the King of Thailand.**



# Marie Bohman & Ivan Valenta.

**Batanagar, Mokameh, Darjeeling, Calcutta, India  
1939 –1971.**

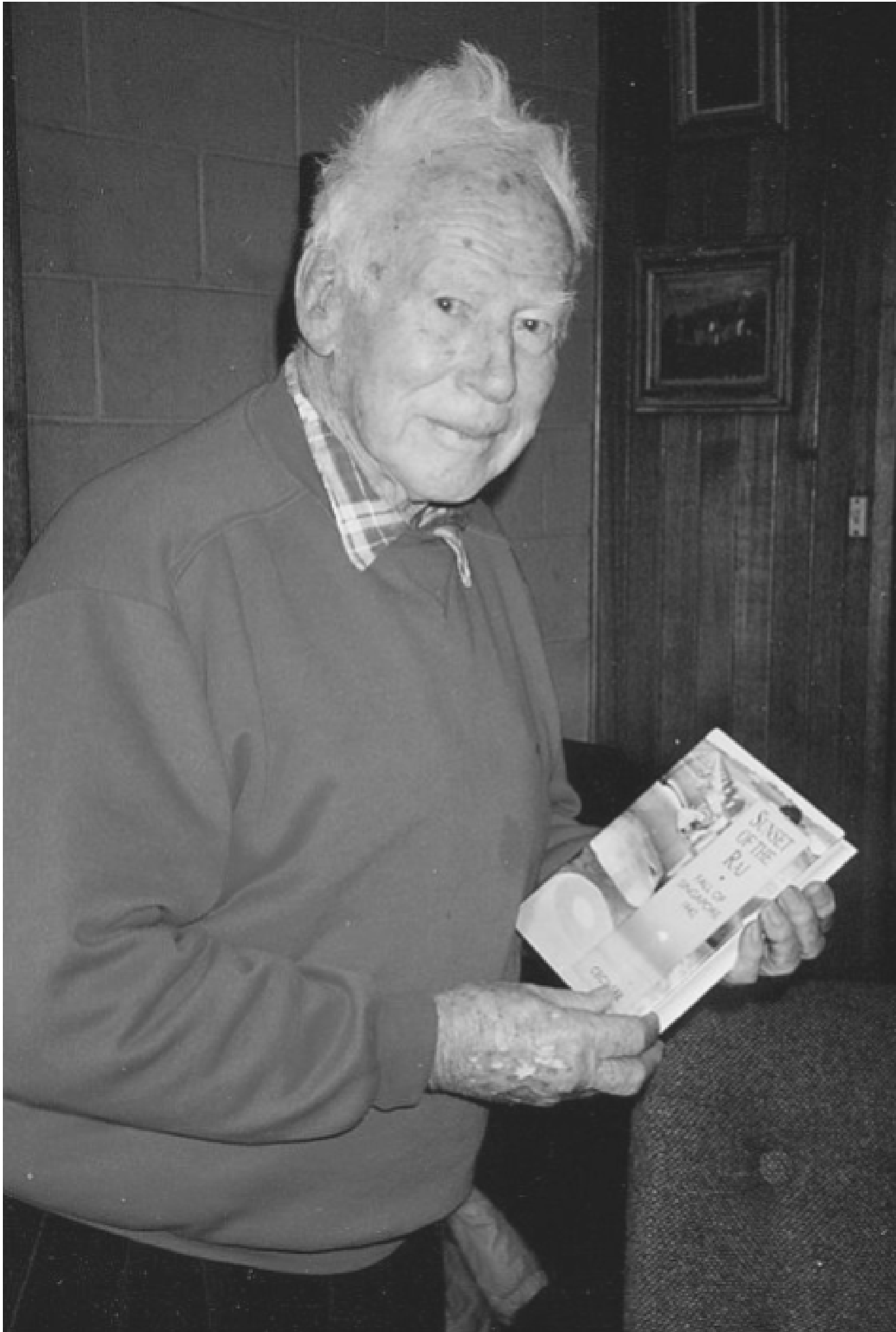


**When Independence came in, gangs in Calcutta would target anyone dressed in European garb. They roughed them up, cut their ties off. Or you'd be in a car coming into Calcutta and you'd see a demonstration. And they had these ringleaders up the front, stirring it up. The car would stop, and next thing they'd be manhandling you. Sometimes they set fire to it.  
It was touch and go.**



# John and Peggy Kennedy.

**Malaya 1937-1940.**



Something that was not fun was searching for a fellow pilot who'd got lost in a Tiger Moth. It was one of three Hay brothers – I think they had a chartered accountancy business, and one of them was definitely interested in mining – and one got lost in a storm and crashed and was killed and we sent out search parties.

# Lif Bostock & Claire Oxlade.

**Hong Kong 1936-38, Ceylon 1951-86.**



**We were in a bread queue. Suddenly the whole of the dual carriageway was cars, motorbikes, everything going out of Colombo, everybody shouting ‘The Tigers are in the Pettah. Go, go, go, go, go!’ So we didn’t know quite what to do. It was particularly annoying as we’d just got to the top of the bread queue!**

# Harry Howell.

**India 1936 – 1941, Ceylon 1942, India 1943,  
Singapore, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, 1955 - 1969.**



**'Confrontation' was on, and I think of something my  
father said in the Services:  
Some of the wildest and woolliest outposts of Empire  
was where you had the most fun.**

# Ephiginie-Catherine 'Effie' Shellshear.

**China and Indochine, 1935-1946, Indochine 1948-50.**



(Effie aged 14 in IndoChine.)

My teeth were clenched together. I had the impression that any moment a bullet would come flying from the riverbank. I felt an untold fear without being able to see, smell or know what was so frightening. I was apprehensive of something that had not yet happened – the fear of inevitable, invisible danger. I clasped my hands and silently prayed.



# Martin Morland, CMG.

**Japan and Manchuria 1933-1942, Burma 1957-61,  
Myanmar 1986-89.**



(Martin in 1997.)

On August 8 a general strike took place; a lot of shooting, a lot of people got killed. Military attaches from the Embassy went to the crematoriums to get a more accurate body count. Somebody telephoned me and said, 'I am your friend. There is a bomb in your house.' Must have been from the government. And someone threw a spent grenade at the American ambassador. But overall there was no ill feeling toward Westerners.

# Illarion 'Larry' Kovalevsky

**Shanghai and Mukden, China, 1925 -1937, Borneo 1944-5.**



As we were stateless, the Chinese government issued people with travel papers. A piece of paper saying who you were, age, where you were born and so on. They didn't issue you with passports. My father went around the world with these flimsy bits of Chinese paper.

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