
Kora, Kurum-Thotical Verghese

Date of Birth 6 February 1922

Place of Birth Kerala, India

Before joining the Air Force in 1942 I was studying for aircraft mechanical course in the Engineering College Madras.

In the Air Force I was first trained as an aircraft mechanic Air Frame and then as aero-engine mechanic by RAF instructors at Lahore, Ambala and Hyderabad. Then I was also trained as automobile and general engineering at Madras.

I had special training on Toofani aircraft (Ouragans) at Marcel Dassault Factory in France. Later on I was trained on Russian Mig 21 aircraft at Chandrigar.

I was instructor with the mobile training unit on Toofani aircraft and engines. I was also an instructor for instructor's course at Air Force Technical College Bangalore. Besides working with various fighter and transport aircraft during and after the war, I worked with Hindustan Aeronautics, Kanpur for manufacturing AVRO 748 aircraft.

During my service career I had few very dangerous periods but on the whole it was a very challenging period. I had the opportunity to work with people of various nationalities including British, Australians, Canadians, Africans and other Asian countries. I served with the RAF to guard the Italian prisoners of war in Bhopal, India 1945 along with Australian and Canadian Air Forces. In 1943-1947 worked in Peshwar, Kohat, Miransha, Afghanistan border and other NW frontier provinces.

It gave me a good opportunity to understand various type of cultures, ideas and human psychology so that I could understand more the need for mutual friendship and love among people.

In 1944 I along with my family immigrated to Australia and took Australian citizenship. Now I am doing voluntary work with Air Force Heritage Museum, Bullcreek, WA as a museum guide and also as leader and tutor for the youth club of the museum. I find it very interesting and enjoy my work.