



## CRANWELLIAN ASSOCIATION

### Tim Nelson RIP



We regret to announce that Tim Nelson (70 Entry C Sqn) passed away on the 29th May 2024. Tim entered the College in September 1954 achieving Under Officer and represented the College at Boxing. He retired from the RAF in April 1980.

Sir Michael Graydon recalls:

*“Tim flew Hunters with 74 Sqn and graduated onto the Lightning, 74 being the first Lightning Squadron around 1961/2 period. 74 Sqn stole show at Farnborough in 1961/2 with stream Rotation Take-offs.*

*Tim served on 92 Sqn and then CFS (Gnat) before joining Red Arrows where he was part of the Synchro pair in his time.*

*After Staff College, Tim was then back to Lightnings as Flt Cdr on 5 Sqn (Binbrook) on the Mk 6.*

*Tim left RAF at his “38 point” and settled in Sussex for career which included estate management.”*

Tim’s first kill:

1964 started with the Squadron going to the Missile Practice Camp at Royal Air Force Valley in Anglesey. This was the first Lightning detachment there. The detachment started with a visit to Aberporth to see the radar set up which controls the range over the Cardigan

Bay. On the following morning the Squadron drove North to Llanbedr to see the Jindiviks (Aborigine for “the hunted one”). These are the pilotless drones that tow magnesium flares for the pilots to fire missiles at and camera pods to record the missile performance. Everyone had their eye on one Jindivik, which had done twenty sorties on the trot without being hit itself. Two days later Tim Nelson went up for the first live firing with a telemetry round. On this occasion Tim had a spot of finger trouble as he forgot to press the R.T. button during the count down. Consequently the magnesium flare was not lit, and the missile homed onto the jetpipe of the Jindivik smashing it into a million pieces much to everyones delight at a total cost of £50,000. The next Jindivik “flamed out” and crashed into the sea before anyone could fire at it, which brought the Squadron bill up to over £100,000.



Tim, as RED 7, is 7<sup>th</sup> from the left.