



Cranwellian Association 2022 Obituaries Archive

Len McKee



We regret to announce the passing on the 1st April 2022 of William Leonard (Len) McKee. Len entered 77(C) in September 1957 and graduated in July 1960.

He was one of the first navigators trained at Cranwell, finishing as an Under Officer.

After several tours, Len arrived on 12 Sqn in 1973 and was a Flt Cdr. He was instrumental in working out maritime attack tactics (something that the RAF had forgotten about since the end of WW2 !) including the introduction of both versions of the Martel Air to Surface Missile.

He retired as a Wing Commander in 1995.

John Pugh



John Pugh graduated from 92(A) in August 1967. His operational flying career started with 115 Sqn, RAF Cottesmore, flying the Varsity and Hastings. In 1969 he transferred to flying Hercules, first with No 36 Squadron, RAF Lyneham, then 70 Sqn, RAF Akrotiri before his final tour on 47 Sqn back at RAF Lyneham.

He married Kit, a nurse from the Middlesex Hospital London in 1970 and had three daughters. In his own words, he ended up “enjoying a restful retirement in Buckinghamshire troubled only by the attentions, and interminable questions, of seven grandchildren!”

John passed away at home on the 18th March 2022.

Barrie Faulkner



Group Captain Barrie Faulkner OBE graduated from 52(D) in April 1951.

He was promoted to Gp Capt in January 77 and retired in May 1980. He peacefully passed away on Saturday 26th March 2022 aged 92 years.

Peter Pledger



Peter Vaughan Pledger was born on the 24th March, 1927, and graduated from 46(C) with the Sword of Honour, the Groves Memorial Prize and the Dickson Trophy.

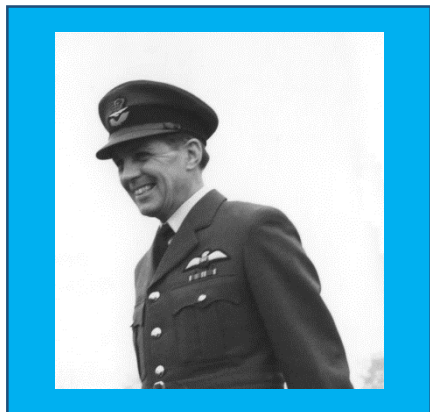
As a young Flying Officer on 13 Sqn, his career was nearly cut short when, in April 1950, the Mosquito he was flying swung on take-off and the undercarriage collapsed at RAF Asmara, Somalia. Both he and his navigator, Peter Bruce-Smith, were unhurt.

As a Wing Commander he was awarded the OBE in the 1966 Birthday Honours List. He was promoted to Group Captain on the 2nd January 1970.

Peter passed away at home on the 6th March 2022 aged 94.

Michael Gill

Sqn Ldr Michael Gill of 52(C) Entry passed away peacefully, at home, on the 26th April 2022 aged 92.

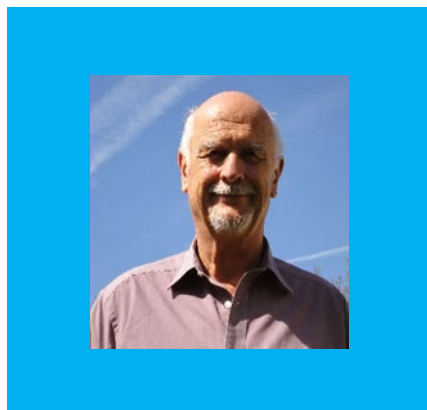


In 1945, he joined Halton as a “Fitter II Engines” passing out with Distinction and winning a GD (Flying) cadetship at RAF Cranwell where he was awarded the Dickson Trophy (Tours Schneider Cup), the Philip Sassoon Memorial Prize and the John Anthony Chance Prize. Flying a Meteor in the Queen's Coronation Ceremony fly-past, he was also a member of the 65 Sqn aerobatic team, 'The Fabulous Four'. He had an exchange with the RCAF flying the CF100 and Voodoo followed by a posting to HQ RAF Rheindahlen and then RAF Upavon where he was Station Commander from 1969 to 1971.

He retired from the RAF in 1975 and started a new career with HM Customs and Excise.

Bob Dixon

Group Captain Robin (Bob) Dixon was a graduate of 88(B) serving in logistics and air transport appointments. The UK MAM Sqn at Lyneham played a significant role in the Ethiopian Famine Relief Airlift and, as its OC, Bob was awarded the OBE.



Promoted to Gp Capt in 1987, Bob commanded Stafford before becoming the Director of Petroleum and Chairman of the NATO Pipeline Committee. Retiring in 1994, he became a consultant to a leading logistics company and to a major charter airline. He also joined the RAuxAF and commanded 4624 Movements Sqn at Brize Norton for six years. From 2001 -14 Bob was the CEO of the European Airshow Council and, for 10 years, also worked with RIAT.

Bob passed away on the 14th April 2022 after a fairly short battle with lung cancer.