

# Group Captain Michael John Forsyth SHAW OBE

## 75 Entry C Squadron

### 11 April 1937 - 7 February 2021

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of MIKE SHAW, who died peacefully at his home in Woodhall Spa on 7 February, after a long illness.

Mike entered the College with 75 Entry on 11 September 1956 and graduated on 28 July 1959, winning the Phillip Sassoon Memorial Prize and the Queen's Medal. Whilst at Cranwell, he had trained on the Vampire. One of four graduates selected for No 200 CFS Course, Little Rissington, in October 1959, he moved to Oakington in March 1960 instructing as a QFI on Vampires. In 1962, the Vampires moved to Swinderby and Mike moved back to Cranwell as an instructor.

However, on 11 February 1962 and recently promoted to Flight Lieutenant, he joined the Hunter Force graduating on 83 Course at RAF Chivenor on 6 June.

Later, he was posted to 74 Sqn, Coltishall, flying Lightnings (Tigers), thence to Cherry Point, North Carolina, to train Marines on the Phantom. According to his wife, Judy, "he did 17 checkouts and probably started getting grey hair then". He became a flight commander on 2 Sqn Phantom (Recce). He returned to Handling Sqn at Boscombe Down for a tour between 1966 and 1968 during which he was promoted to Squadron Leader, then posted to Air Plans at MOD and in 1971 to RAF Bracknell, followed by a year at RAF Coningsby before going to Laarbruch on recce Phantoms. He returned to Coningsby as OC 228 OCU and completed another tour at MOD. He had been promoted to Wing Commander in 1974 and awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1977.

He was posted to RAF Honington, then a Buccaneer station, for two years in 1980 as Station Commander during which time the station was selected to host the new Tornado GR1. From Honington, he went back to Germany, to RAF Rheindahlen, until returning to MOD. After that, he joined TTE at RAF Upavon in 1986. His final posting was to Innsworth where his role was to reduce the numbers of RAF Officers!

Judy recounts that "Mike had a wonderful time in the RAF and flew 15 different types of aircraft from Vampires and Meteors to Lightnings and Phantoms, but he always said that his favourite was the Hunter. In retirement, he flew model aircraft with a group of other enthusiasts".

Amongst his friends and colleagues, Mike had the reputation as an excellent artist and his drawings of aircraft were exact in every detail. He had a good voice and a very precise way of speaking and writing. He will be sorely missed.



U/O MJF Shaw  
Cranwell 1959



U/O MJF Shaw  
Queen's Medal  
Phillip Sassoon Memorial Prize



Mike & Judy Shaw  
Xmas 1958 Cranwell



Flt Lt Mike Shaw  
Hunter Course Chivenor 11 February to 6 June 1962



Gp Capt Mike Shaw  
Buccaneer Course