



Biographical Notes
SQN LDR ANTHONY STACEY COTTINGHAM
 Prepared by Tony (Stacey) Cottingham
 71 Entry B Squadron

Start Date	End Date	Posting/Appointment
25 Oct 34		Date of Birth
Aug 51	Jul 54	69 Apprentice Entry Halton training as electrical fitter / ground
Jul 54	Dec 54	32 MU St Athan Link Trainer major overhaul. Junior Technician
Jan 55	Dec 57	71 Flight Cadet Entry Cranwell Senior Under Officer flying Piston Provost and Vampire FB9 & T11
Jan 58	Feb 58	230 OCU Waddington Vulcan. Supernumerary, no course available
Mar 58	Apr 58	232 OCU Gaydon Valiant co-pilot on No 30 Valiant course
Apr 58	Feb 61	49 Sqn Valiant Operation Grapple nuclear trials then main force nuclear deterrent From 3 hours readiness at start to 15 min readiness at end. Chipmunk flying also. ICC at 232 OCU 1 st pilot conversion Aug 60
Mar 61	Jun 61	232 OCU Gaydon No 69 Valiant captain's course Among first to move directly from co-pilot to captain in V Force
Jun 61	Oct 62	7 Sqn Wittering Valiant Main Force nuclear deterrent until squadron disbandment on transfer of role to Vulcans. Included Oct 62 Uganda independence celebrations. Participated in flypast, air display and low level tour of country.
Oct 62	Mar 63	232 OCU Wittering, Cottesmore No 9 Victor 2 course as captain. Very delayed flying due to heavy snow and ice that winter.
Mar 63	Nov 64	100 Sqn Wittering Victor 2, transition from free fall weapon to Blue Steel Feb 64 Special Flight 5755 to RNZAF Ohakea open day & North Island low flying tour.
Nov 64	Jan 65	Strubby No 23/64 Meteor refresher course Meteor 7, 8
Jan 65	Dec 65	ETPS Farnborough No 24 Fixed wing course flying 7 new types of aircraft + gliders
Dec 65	Nov 68	B Sqn bomber and maritime a/c flight testing included Victor K1 flight refuelling development, Canberra ejection seat trials and TT18 towing Rushton target. Flew 11 new types of fixed wing aircraft and 3 types of helicopter.
Nov 68		Biggin Hill Ground instructional technique course
Dec 68	Jul 69	Church Fenton OCTU staff
Jul 69	Oct 69	Henlow OCTU staff
Nov 69		Promoted Sqn Ldr
Nov 69	Feb 71	Farnborough Flying Operations A, MOD(PE)

Start Date	End Date	Posting/Appointment
Feb 71	Sep 72	Flight Test Operations St Giles Court MOD/PE, same job as Fg Ops A but office in London, , keeping in flying practice at Farnborough throughout the tour
Sep 72	Jan 73	232 OCU Victor 1A official conversion course. (Victor K1 trials flying at Boscombe Down not counted.)
Jan 73	Jun 75	55 Sqn Marham Victor 1A Flt Cdr. Flight refuelling until disbandment/transfer of squadron onto Victor K2.
Jun 75	Sep 75	Supernumerary at Farnborough for RAE equipment trials in 'Noisy Norah' exercise of air power engaging major tank formation on Salisbury Plain
Oct 75		Compulsory redundancy in 1975 defence cuts
Oct 75	Jul 79	Loughborough University Maths and Education Degree B Sc (Hons)
Apr 79	Apr 85	Burleigh College, Loughborough, comprehensive secondary school, teaching Mathematics and Computing. Set up their first desktop computer classes on Research Machines 380Z and later BBC computers. Maths teaching from CSE up to A Level.
Apr 85	Aug 95	HM Prison Lewes Education Department, lecturer in Mathematics and Computing. Set up department's computing on BBC computers, changing later to desktop personal computers.
Aug 95		Retired
2001		Maputo, Mozambique. Sent on behalf of Hoveraid for a three week visit during the Zambesi annual floods to explore possible use of a River Rover small hovercraft to help in relief operations. It was a very interesting insight on the workings of NGO relief organisations, keen on getting help for free but not when extra cost was involved.
2000-2001		Annual visits to Nicaragua with the Peace and Hope Trust for building and other projects to help poor communities, including wind generators and solar powered battery charging for domestic lighting.
2013		Three weeks in Kampala, Uganda observing Mission Aviation Fellowship flying operations around the country. They provide flights for aid agencies and government officials plus emergency communications to avoid long, difficult and sometimes dangerous road journeys. I just missed making this trip on the 50 th anniversary of my 1962 independence visit. MAF is now a worldwide organisation.
2014		Three weeks in Kumi, central Uganda, to deliver interactive lessons on DVDs produced by Education Saves Lives and see how they were used in basic health and social education. Made more recordings of new lessons in local languages.

When preparing these notes on his and other 71 Entry biographical notes, he drafted the following additional notes on life at the College, the 2015 reunion and an input on overseas postings from Jock Heron:

“Arrived Jan 55 - 36 souls

Graduated Dec 57 - 25 souls, one lost in a Vampire

Trained on Piston Provost flying from Cranwell North airfield, later Barkston Heath, with Spitalgate as satellite and Vampire T11 and FB9 flying from Cranwell South airfield with circuits at Fulbeck and occasionally Swinderby.

Graduated to fly Hunter, Canberra, Valiant, Victor, Vulcan.
Achievements - 1xAVM, 5xGp Cpts, 2xOBEs, 1xDFC, 3xAFCs;
sort of "unexceptional" entry but eight served on exchange duties with the USAF,
including one who ruined the RAF's safety record with the USAF by ejecting twice from
Phantoms.

Notable events –

One flew a Harrier in Transatlantic air race, earning a Harmon Trophy

Another was CO of the Strikemaster operation in Oman at the dramatic relief of Mirbat
fort, awarded an Omani decoration.

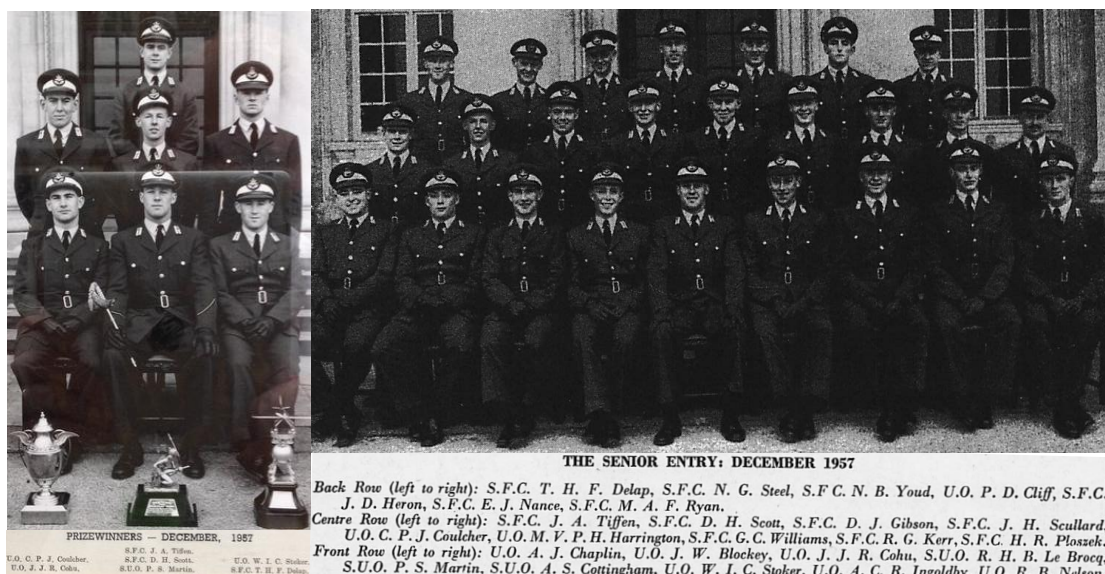
At the 2015 reunion there were 13 present out of 15 survivors.

Notes on overseas postings from Jock Heron

The exchange tours were indeed coincidental as illustrated by the attached pic of
Graham, Ted, Bill, Dave Cowley and me on our Chivenor course in 1958. Only Graham
didn't serve under another flag but for some time in 1966sh all five of us were flying in the
USA. Graham at Edwards on Phantom trials, Dave Cowley at Perrin AFB on the F-102,
Ted at Randolph on the T-38 where he had replaced Dick LeB, Bill at Luke on the F-100
and me at Nellis on the F-105. At the same time Jerry Cohu was at Davis-Monthan on the
F-4. Later, Chuck was at McDill on the F-4 (ejected twice) and Tony Chaplin and Mike H
served on staff duties. That's eight in my book plus Mick in Canada, extraordinary! Peter
Martin was seconded to the Malaysians for a time, around 1967, so perhaps that counts
as well.

Stanley was deemed to have "austere" living conditions where the Falklands amenities
were scarce and the working day was twelve hours for six days per week. It coincided
with the miners' strike in the UK where Scargill and his ilk wanted to reduce their working
week to 35 hours and they were being paid far more than the majority of my chaps!"

1957 Prizewinners & Senior Term (70/71E)



The Cranwellian Historical Society (CHS) would like to extend its thanks to Tony for
preparing these notes on his cohort and allowing us to post them on the CHS website.