



Biographical Notes
GP CAPT JOHN (JOCK) HERON
Prepared by Tony (Stacey) Cottingham
71 Entry B Squadron

Group Captain Jock Heron was born in Paisley and completed his education at Hamilton Academy before joining the Royal Air Force in January 1955 as an officer cadet at the RAF College Cranwell. Following graduation and the award of his pilot's wings he was commissioned in December 1957. After operational conversion and training on the Hunter at Chivenor he was posted to No43(F) Squadron at Leuchars as a day fighter ground attack pilot. In 1961 he moved to Stradishall with No54(F) Squadron for a second Hunter tour where he became the squadron weapons instructor after attending the Fighter Combat School at West Raynham. A further posting took him to Binbrook in 1963 as the Hunter trials pilot on the Air Fighting Development Squadron, part of the Central Fighter Establishment, where he also flew the Lightning and, when detached to the French Air Force, various marks of the Dassault Mirage 3.

In 1965 he was selected for an exchange appointment with the United States Air Force at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas where he was an instructor pilot on the Republic F-105 Thunderchief. During this tour he flew the last F-86F Sabre in the USAF before the type's retirement in 1966. Promoted to Squadron Leader in 1966, he returned in 1967 to the United Kingdom to take up an appointment in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Operational Requirements branch as a Squadron Leader staff officer on the Tornado project.

From 1970 to 1971 he served as a lecturer on the Joint Warfare Establishment at Old Sarum before resuming flying duties as a Harrier Flight Commander on NoIV(AC) squadron at RAF Wildenrath. He returned to the MoD in 1975 as the Harrier Air Staff officer where he was responsible for enhancing the operational capability of the RAF Harrier Force. He served in Whitehall until 1978 when he was promoted and returned to Germany to command the operations wing at RAF Gutersloh where he flew both the Harrier and the Wessex helicopter. In 1980 he was posted to HQ RAF Germany at Rheindahlen and was made an OBE in 1981 for his work on the Harrier.

Promoted to Group Captain in 1982 he returned to the United Kingdom to command RAF West Drayton where he remained until 1984 when he was posted to the Falkland Islands to command RAF Stanley for four months. On his return he became Group Captain Operations at Headquarters Strike Command where he was responsible for shaping the RAF command and control organisation in the new NATO bunker. He remained at High Wycombe until his early retirement from the RAF in the Spring of 1987 when he joined Rolls-Royce in Bristol as its Military Affairs Executive.

His duties with the Company involved close liaison with the flying units of all three Services and with the MoD policy, operational requirements and air staffs with the aim of ensuring a smooth communications flow between the Company and the Armed Forces. He retired finally in October 1998 but maintains his Service links through the RAF Historical Society, where he is Vice Chairman. At Filton he is Chairman of the Bristol Branch of the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust and a trustee of the Bristol Aero Collection. As an ex trustee of the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust he is a supporter of the Royal International Air Tattoo.

He married Tracey in 1959 and has three daughters and seven grandchildren. She died in 1993, but in 2001 he married a widow whose late husband was killed at Woodford while displaying the Rolls-Royce Spitfire, but she died in 2005 leaving two children.

1957 Prizewinners & Senior Term (70/71E)



PRIZEWINNERS — DECEMBER, 1957

U.O. C. P. J. Coulcher, S.F.C. J. A. Tiffin, U.O. W. I. C. Stoker
 U.O. J. J. R. Coka, S.F.C. D. H. Scott, S.U.O. P. S. Martin, S.F.C. T. H. F. Delap



THE SENIOR ENTRY: DECEMBER 1957

Back Row (left to right): S.F.C. T. H. F. Delap, S.F.C. N. G. Steel, S.F.C. N. B. Youd, U.O. P. D. Cliff, S.F.C. J. D. Heron, S.F.C. E. J. Nance, S.F.C. M. A. F. Ryan.
 Centre Row (left to right): S.F.C. J. A. Tiffin, S.F.C. D. H. Scott, S.F.C. D. J. Gibson, S.F.C. J. H. Scullard, U.O. C. P. J. Coulcher, U.O. M. V. P. H. Harrington, S.F.C. G. C. Williams, S.F.C. R. G. Kerr, S.F.C. H. R. Ploszek.
 Front Row (left to right): U.O. A. J. Chaplin, U.O. J. W. Blockey, U.O. J. J. R. Coka, S.U.O. R. H. B. Le Brocq, S.U.O. P. S. Martin, S.U.O. A. S. Cottingham, U.O. W. I. C. Stoker, U.O. A. C. R. Ingoldby, U.O. R. B. Nelson.

His biography 'From Schoolboy to Station Commander' has been published by Rolls Royce Trust with ISBN 978-1-872922-46-1