

# RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

## AH Humphrey



RAF College Cadet  
12 January 1939 - 30 April 1940

# AH Humphrey - Flight Cadet Record

COLLEGE SEQUENCE NUMBER		CHRISTIAN NAMES		SURNAME	
1191.		Andrew Henry.		Humphrey.	
BORN	DATE	NATIONALITY	DATE	RELIGION	DATE
	10.1.21	English.		b. of b.	
JOINED COLLEGE	DATE	ORDER OF MERIT ON JOINING		NO. IN TERM ON JOINING	
	12.1.39	8.		25.	
LEFT COLLEGE	DATE	ORDER OF MERIT ON LEAVING		NO. IN TERM ON LEAVING	
	30.4.40				
PROMOTED		JOINED		DROPPED	
CADET CORPORAL		1ST TERM	13.1.39	AFTER	TERM
CADET SERGEANT		2ND TERM	29.4.39		
		3RD TERM	27.8.39		
UNDER OFFICER		4TH TERM		AFTER	TERM
		5TH TERM			
		6TH TERM			
COMMISSIONED IN R.A.F.	DATE	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL IF COURSE NOT COMPLETED			
	1.5.40				
NAME OF PARENT OR NEXT OF KIN		ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER			
Mrs. A. F. Humphrey (mother)		2, St. Leonard's Lane, Lincoln.			
PROFESSION OF PARENT OR NEXT OF KIN		Tel: Lincoln 673.			
Father: Exchange Broker (living).		CHANGE OF ADDRESS			
WHERE EDUCATED					
Ratcliffe Hill, Louth (1929-1934). Bradford College, Leeds (1934-1938).					
PRIZES, ETC., ON JOINING		PRIZES, ETC., ON LEAVING			
REMARKS AND FURTHER HISTORY					
<p>Posted to No. 9 B. &amp; G. School, Farnham, W. &amp; C. 4.5.40.</p> <p>Promotions: Flying Officer (15 rank) 1.5.41. Flight Lieutenant (15 rank) 1.5.42.</p> <p>Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy - London Gazette dated 30.5.41.</p> <p>Awarded the Air Force Cross - London Gazette No. 35841 dated 1.1.43.</p> <p>Awarded a Bar to the Air Force Cross - London Gazette dated 1.1.45.</p>					
COLLEGE SEQUENCE NUMBER		CHRISTIAN NAMES		SURNAME	
1191.		Andrew Henry.		Humphrey.	

## Promotions (continued):-

Flight Lieutenant (S) 1.11.43. Squadron Leader (15) 20.2.45.  
 Squadron Leader (S) 1.8.47. Acting Commander.  
 Wing Commander (S) 1.7.51. Group Captain 1.7.57.  
 Air Commodore - 1.7.62. Air Vice Marshal 1.1.65.

Appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.).  
 Auth: London Gazette dated 1.1.51.

Awarded 2nd Bar to Air Force Cross - London Gazette 3.6.55

Mentioned in Despatches (L/Gazette d/d 23.1.68)

Acting Air Marshal 18.3.68.

Air Marshal Sir Andrew Humphrey <sup>G.C.B.</sup> ~~K.C.B.~~, O.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C. (def) (L/Gazette 7.1.69)

Air Chief Marshal 1.12.70.

Marshal of the RAF 6.8.76. (L/G 10.8.76)

Died 24th January 1977.

Obituary: Times d/d 25 Jan 77 records that he died of pneumonia following a visit to Norway.



# AH Humphrey - Short Biography



Marshal of the Royal Air Force  
**Sir Andrew Henry Humphrey**  
GCB, OBE, DFC, AFC & Two Bars  
(10 Jan 1921 – 24 Jan 1977)

Marshal of the Royal Air Force **Sir Andrew Henry Humphrey** fought in the Second World War as a fighter pilot, taking part in the Battle of Britain, and also took part in the withdrawal from Aden in November 1967.

As Chief of the Air Staff, he advised the Labour Government on the implementation of their latest Defence Review.

He then served as Chief of the Defence Staff but caught pneumonia within three months of taking office and died shortly afterwards.



# AH Humphrey - J39 Entry but graduated with FTS

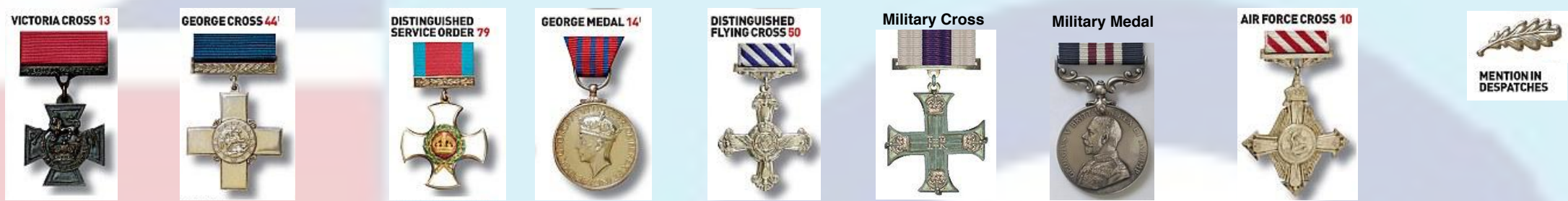


"B" SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE COLLEGE, CRANWELL  
JULY, 1939

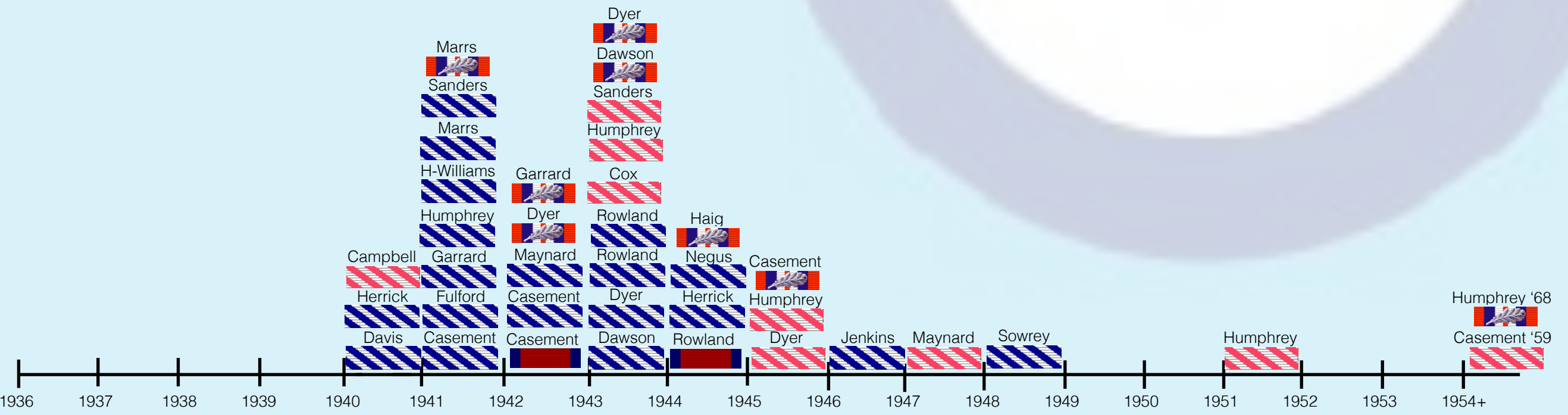
*Back Row—F/C R. H. Clifford F/C A. H. Humphrey F/C K. W. Woodell F/C J. T. Berryman F/C M. H. Dalzell-McKean F/C J. N. Rowland*  
*Fourth Row—F/C R. Vial F/C A. E. Whitworth F/C D. T. M. Lonsdale F/C R. W. Pyc F/C T. J. F. Davey F/C G. E. Cruwys F/C J. O. Dyer F/C J. K. C. Baldwin F/C T. de T. Macdonald F/C E. S. Marrs F/C C. T. Davis*  
*Third Row—F/C J. A. Paine F/C E. J. M. Neilson F/C D. C. Shepley F/C T. R. Dorrie F/C M. P. S. Laughton F/C T. A. Vigors F/C A. F. Pegen F/C R. M. Hogg F/C T. P. Seymour F/C F. M. C. Guest F/C H. Moody*  
*Second Row—Sgt. J. Wilby F/C Cpl. D. L. Wingate F/C A. M. Ruane F/C J. S. D. Jones F/C Cpl. J. H. L. Blount F/C Cpl. T. S. Wildblood F/C C. M. Burfield F/C Arjan Singh F/C R. L. Hicks F/C R. R. Champion F/C N. J. V. Be*  
*F/C J. Smith F/C J. M. Taylor*  
*Front Row—F/C M. D. Lyon F/C V. J. Pattison F/C J. R. R. Wood F/C C. V. Beaton F/C Sgt. J. E. Preston F/C U/O P. A. Kingston F/Lt. J. D. T. Bevell F/O H. A. Chater F/C Sgt. J. Tillet F/C Cpl. R. E. Harris F/C J. H. R. Pa*  
*F/C B. D. Allison F/C H. C. Randall*

# Awards for Gallantry - 1940 Cadets

Graduation  
Year



1940	PR Casement JN Rowland	CT Davis IP Howard-Williams JMO Dyer AH Humphrey ES Marrs M Negus JN Rowland (2) AAJ Sanders JA Sowrey	IR Campbell JMO Dyer AHHumphrey (3) AAJ Sanders	JMO Dyer (2) AM Humphrey ES Marrs
1940 War Entry		PR Casement (2) GN Dawson D Fulford P Gerrard MJ Herrick (2) HA Jenkins NMMaynard	PR Casement MI Cox NM Maynard	PR Casement GN Dawson P Garrard JG Haig





# Service Awards



Graduation  
Year



RVO



KB



KBE



CB



CBE



OBE



MBE

1940

IR Campbell

AH Humphrey

1940 War Entry

NM Maynard

NM Maynard



# 1977 - Tributes to A Great Airman (1)



*Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey GCB OBE DFC AFC*

## TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AIRMAN

**MARSHAL OF THE ROYAL FORCE SIR ANDREW HUMPHREY, GCB, OBE, DFC, AFC, CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF 1 APRIL 1974 to 6 AUGUST 1976 — CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF 24 OCTOBER 1976 to 24 JANUARY 1977**

It was with shock and great sadness that the Royal Air Force College heard the news of the untimely death on 24 January 1977 of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey. The hearts of everyone at Cranwell, staff, students and families, went out immediately in deep and sincere sympathy to Lady Humphrey.

Sir Andrew was one of the College's most respected and distinguished graduates. He was the first ex-Flight Cadet to become Chief of the Defence Staff and we were — and are — very proud of him. It was a cruel tragedy and a serious blow to national defence when he was struck down after such a short time in post, just when he had begun deploying his remarkable qualities of leadership and many talents at the pinnacle of the military profession in our country.

We at the College recall with the greatest pleasure the many visits to Cranwell by Sir Andrew and Lady Humphrey during his time as Chief of the Air Staff. We take some slight consolation in recalling that we dined them both out in College Hall in July 1976, just four weeks before Sir Andrew handed over the Air Force to his successor. And we are pleased that on that occasion we gave them ample evidence of the warmth of our regard for them both.

The *Journal* feels that it can do no better as a tribute to a great airman than to place on permanent record, verbatim in our columns, the *Times* obituary by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy, and the Memorial Address by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Elworthy in Westminster Abbey.

**Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy, Governor of Gibraltar writes :**

Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy, Governor of Gibraltar writes :

The death of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey at the early age of 56 is a tragedy of far reaching consequence. After thirty-eight years of diverse experience and responsibility in the Royal Air Force culminating in two years as Chief of the Air Staff, he had been Chief of the Defence Staff for only three months.

A member of his pre-war cadet entry at Cranwell has said of him how apparent even then were the human qualities that were to be found in the public figure he later became : his modesty, his consideration for others, his sensitivity and his warmth. He fought in the Battle of Britain and later served in a wide variety of flying and staff appointments during and after the war. He was Senior Instructor at the Royal Air Force Flying College between 1953 and 1955, and he is remembered by his students as a resolute, tough instructor and one always reluctant even in the small hours to abandon a discussion on flying and operational problems. His acknowledged skill as a pilot provided many 'firsts' at Manby. He captained Canberra Aries IV on its record-breaking flight from Capetown to London, and later took the same aircraft on the first flight by a British jet over the North Pole. For these flights he was awarded a second bar to his AFC. Less well known, but still very significant for the Service, was his work in the Operational



# 1977 - Tributes to A Great Airman (2)

Requirements branch to ensure that the prototype Lightning became a successful front-line fighter aircraft. He insisted on testing and refining his ideas in the air in what was for those days an exceptionally advanced aircraft. For this outstanding work he was made a CB whilst still a Group Captain, an honour of rare exception in the Service.

Andrew Humphrey next commanded the very busy airfield at Akrotiri while it was being developed from virtually a tented camp to the huge permanent base it later became. Following this he served as the Royal Air Force Director of Defence Plans, during what was to be a very difficult period. By now there was no doubt among his contemporaries that he was a future CAS, an opinion that was confirmed later during his tenure as the last AOC Middle East. In this post he was intimately concerned in the withdrawal from Aden, particularly the crucial air transport aspects of it which are still generally regarded as something of a model.

After innovative years first as AMP and then as AOC in C Strike Command, he was appointed CAS in 1974. By now he had developed a deep concern about the increased build-up of Soviet Forces and our ability to defend ourselves, and he said so. He said so at moments that not everyone found convenient, and he said so at times when silence would not have been criticised. But these strong views were not an obsessive focus; his perspective took in the complex patterns of modern history, and it extended forward to explore the trends that he believed his Service should prepare itself to meet. In that sense he was a strategist; but he was not a dogmatic one. He had such an obvious willingness to listen that even the most junior of his colleagues found him receptive to their ideas. An encounter of that kind usually led to a rapid and penetrating analysis but it was never crushing, it was always constructive and above all it was delivered quietly and with immense charm. He encouraged, exercised, and — in the very widest sense of that word — educated those who were fortunate enough to serve close to him.

Always a very active man, Andrew's very close interest in the Royal Air Force Athletics Association kept him in touch with the sport he had loved since Cranwell days, and in the nine years of his presidency the Royal Air Force team never lost the Inter-Services Championships.

He travelled a great deal and made it a point of honour to be seen around his Service as often as he could manage. In his short time as CDS he showed the same approach and it was just after such a visit, that he was taken ill three weeks ago.

I said that his loss is tragic, and so it is. He would have brought to the onerous post of CDS the wisdom, knowledge and experience that stem from long service and great responsibility. He was eminently fitted for the role, not only because of his background, but far more than that, he had a tenacious and penetrating mind and he had a comprehensive grasp and an inter-Service understanding of the immense problems facing those responsible for our defence policy today. Those who guide defence in Whitehall have suffered the loss of an incisive and inspiring intellect that neither Services, Government nor country can afford. Even in a Service that has never found itself short of talent it has been rare to find in one man such skill in the air, so powerful an intellect and so warm a human being.

The hearts of countless Service men and women and their families at all levels go out to his widow, Agnes, herself a former Women's Auxiliary Air Force officer, who, in whatever appointment her husband was filling at home or abroad, endeared herself to all through her unrelenting efforts to improve the welfare needs of Service personnel and their families. Theirs was a partnership devoted to the Royal Air Force. The contribution made by Andrew Humphrey to his country, to its defence and to the Service he so loved, was outstanding. He was unquestionably a great airman.

## Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Elworthy's address in Westminster Abbey :

Andrew Henry Humphrey was born in January 1921. A few days after his 56th birthday, when a Marshal of the Royal Air Force and the newly appointed Chief of the Defence Staff, he died. We are here today in Westminster Abbey to give thanks for his life, work and inspiration. There is so very much for which to be thankful.

I am greatly privileged to have been asked to give this address. Though I could not help knowing of him, I did not know Andrew until some fourteen years ago and in attempting now to do some justice to his memory, I am indebted to many people who knew him well, saw his work and have written or spoken about him to me.

The young Andrew was fascinated by aircraft even in early Prep. School days and long before he left his Public School — Bradfield — he had decided upon a Royal Air Force career.

He passed out of Cranwell and was awarded his Wings in April 1940. In September, after a ten day conversion course on Spitfires, he was in action against the enemy, but he was soon switched into the then almost unknown business of night fighting. It was at this time that Andrew Humphrey began to reveal his truly remarkable potential as an aviator. It is impossible to talk about him without constantly returning to the subject of flying. As the years went by and as a result of his exceptional natural ability coupled with his determination, courage and his meticulous preparation for the task in hand, he acquired an ever increasing reputation as a pilot of the very highest calibre. He never lost his love of flying, he never lost his skill. Even in later years when he was no longer in flying appointments, he flew whenever it was humanly possible and remained to the end a master of the art.

But to go back to 1941, he was that year awarded the DFC for his destruction of enemy bombers at night and then, when posted as an instructor to a night fighter OTU, so outstanding was his performance that he was awarded the AFC. His instructional duties were interspersed with further operations and his tally of enemy aircraft destroyed increased. In 1943 he was posted to North Africa, happily for the efficiency of the rocket-firing Beaufighter and Hurricane squadrons there, again as an instructor. A bar to his AFC gives some indication of what he achieved. For the last year of the war and the first few after it Andrew served in India, the Far East, at home and in the Middle East and East Africa, mostly on flying duties.

In 1951 he was posted to Manby for the Advanced Flying College Course. To nobody's surprise he was the outstanding student and at the end of the course was promptly posted to the staff, first as a syndicate leader and then as senior instructor. For his work at Manby, which included two record breaking flights, the first from Capetown to London and the second over the North Geographic Pole, he was awarded a second bar to his AFC.

After the Staff College — even there he somehow managed to log 50 flying hours — and then a very distinguished tour of duty as Deputy Director of Operational Requirements at the Air Ministry, he went to Cyprus to command Akrotiri and it was there that I first knew him and where, even as a visitor, I could not fail to be impressed by a commander of quite exceptional ability. On promotion to Air Commodore Andrew went to the Imperial Defence College and from there to the very testing post of Director of Joint Plans at the Air Ministry which then became Director of Defence Plans (Air) at the newly constituted Ministry of Defence. I was at this time Chief of the Air Staff and we worked very closely together. With a major Defence Review in progress, the Services were going through difficult times and the Chiefs of Staff and



# 1977 - Tributes to A Great Airman (3)

the Planning Staff were deeply involved in controversial issues some of which raised inter-Service tensions particularly between the Navy and the Air Force. Andrew proved himself a superb staff officer. He got through prodigies of work, all of it meticulously prepared and reasoned, and he debated fearlessly but fairly.

In 1965 he was posted to Aden as Air Officer Commanding, Middle East. Just before he went, the newly appointed Unified Commander in Chief, Middle East, who was to be his boss there, asked me whether I really thought that an Air Force Officer who had been so involved in inter-Service controversy, was the right man to send to a Unified Command, faced with a task that would demand the utmost in terms of inter-Service agreement. I assured him that the Air Force was giving him the best man it possessed. It is unlikely that his doubts were then dispelled, but two years later he wrote me a letter from which I quote. "Humphrey brought to the joint deliberations of the Command a freshness of outlook, a flexibility of mind and a maturity of judgement which were quite invaluable. He has more than proved himself in this exacting appointment and I would set no limit on his potential as a holder of the highest post in the Air Force, or indeed in the Defence Services at large." Those were prophetic words! Ironically that Unified Commander in Chief was that great sailor Mike Le Fanu. Within the space of seven years, here in Westminster Abbey, we have mourned the untimely loss of two outstanding military men: Admiral of the Fleet Sir Michael Le Fanu and Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey, both appointed to the highest military post in the realm, the first denied it by illness and subsequent death and the second to die after only three months in office.

In Aden at the same time, as the last High Commissioner in South Arabia, was Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, now Lord Trevelyan, who was reading the Lesson a few minutes ago. His was the prime responsibility for what in a recent letter to me he described as that "virtually impossible Aden operation made possible by two great men who died at the height of their powers". Speaking of Andrew, he went on to say "He had a brilliant and incisive mind and was a wonderful person to work with in difficult days. And he was a warm person. When he met, his face would light up with an infectious smile and a twinkle in the eye. It was a wonderfully welcome message that he was pleased to see one". How many of us have enjoyed that same experience!

Although when appointed Air Member for Personnel, Andrew's service background was one of flying, Air Staff and command, no man could have been better equipped to deal with the more human aspects of Service life. He had always had a wonderful ability to talk to anybody about his or her job with a genuine and lively interest, though that job might range from the operation of a highly sophisticated control system to the sweeping of a hangar floor. He had understanding and he had compassion.

In 1971 he became C-in-C Strike Command. Again he could indulge his passion for flying and put it to most useful purpose, for he was uniquely capable of assessing the strengths and weaknesses of our front line equipment and the proficiency of our aircrew. His was a copybook example of the exercise of command by a combination of superb professional knowledge and natural instinctive leadership.

Andrew became head of his Service in 1974 and clearly there was a need for an exceptionally able man at the helm for there were troubled waters ahead. He was deeply concerned by what he believed to be dangerous shortcomings in our defence capability and he had the courage openly to say so. As Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy has written "He said so at moments that not everyone found convenient and at times when silence would not have been criticised". But his own comfort counted for nothing when set against his duty as he saw it.

For many years it had been generally accepted that Andrew Humphrey was destined to become Chief of the Defence Staff — perhaps the earliest to record that conviction was that perceptive Field Marshal, Sir Gerald Templer. Within three months of assuming the post he had already made his mark. In January he performed what was to be his last duty, a visit to Army and Air Forces in Germany, during which, need I say it, he got in some helicopter flying. There was no premonition of disaster ahead, but within two weeks of his return he was dead.

The contribution that this modest and unassuming man made to his country and to the Service he so loved, was outstanding. His loss is tragic and a serious one for us and, I believe, for our NATO Allies too.

I have spoken of his life as a serving officer and that was a life filled with activity. Yet somehow he contrived to find time for all sorts of other interests — church architecture, cabinet making, gardening, history and the re-reading of Scott and Dickens — to mention but some. But neither his service duties nor these other interests prevented him from developing warm and generous friendships which have given such enjoyment to so many of us and which we shall so greatly miss.

The hearts of countless service men and women and the hearts of many others in many different walks of life, go out to his widow, Agnes. Theirs was a wonderful partnership, each complementing the other, both respected, admired and loved by all. Agnes was no stranger to Service life; she had been a Flight Officer in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and wherever she and Andrew were, at home or abroad, she endeared herself to all through her charm, through her care and concern for her husband and through her unremitting efforts on behalf of the welfare of service families.

She will not be unaware of the great affection and respect in which her husband was universally held and a measure of which is shown by the great number of his colleagues and friends from so many nations, here in Westminster Abbey.

In Shakespeare's words "His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world — This was a man."



# 1978 - Pride of Place for Inspirational Leader

## PORTRAIT OF MARSHAL OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SIR ANDREW HUMPHREY

A portrait of the late Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey, Chief of the Defence Staff from October 1976 to January 1977, was unveiled at the College on 19 December 1977.

The portrait, painted by Mara McGregor, is the fourth by the artist to be hung in the dining room at the College. It was unveiled by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Neil Cameron who was at one time Assistant Commandant at Cranwell.

Those attending the unveiling ceremony included Lady Humphrey; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken, Air Member for Personnel; and a former Commandant of the Royal Air Force College, Air Chief Marshal Sir Neville Stack, Air Secretary. The Old Cranwellian Association was represented by Air Commodore E D McK Nelson its Vice-President, Group Captain F E Nuttall and Wing Commander M E Howells. The artist was also present.



*Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, CAS, Lady Humphrey and Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Neil Cameron, CDS, admire the portrait of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey*



# 1978 - Humphrey Memorial Medal



*Lady Humphrey presents the Andrew Humphrey Memorial Gold Medal to Squadron Leader G L Thurston*

## THE ANDREW HUMPHREY MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL

In memory of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey, GCB, OBE, DFC, AFC, Chief of the Defence Staff 24 October 1976 to 24 January 1977, Lady Humphrey has generously donated a specially designed gold medal which is awarded annually to the best student on the General Duties Aerosystems Course within the Department of Air Warfare at the Royal Air Force College.

To mark the occasion of the inaugural award, Lady Humphrey honoured the College by making the first presentation at a special ceremony on 14 December 1978. Lady Humphrey, accompanied by the AOC and Commandant and Mrs Harcourt-Smith, was met at Whittle Hall by the Deputy Commandant, Air Commodore Carver and the Director of the Department of Air Warfare, Group Captain Leech. After coffee there followed a presentation on the General Duties Aerosystems Course by the Directing Staff Aerosystems Section, Wing Commander

Wilkinson. The party then drove to College Hall for the presentation of the memorial gold medal in the Rotunda. The ceremony, attended by staff and students of 11 GD Aerosystems Course and their wives, was opened by Air Commodore Carver who read the citation and invited Lady Humphrey to present the Andrew Humphrey Memorial Gold Medal to the winner, Squadron Leader G L Thurston, MA.

Squadron Leader Thurston, a graduate of Oxford University, joined the Royal Air Force in 1969. He trained as a navigator and flew Buccaneer aircraft with No XV Squadron in Germany. In 1976 he returned to No 6 Flying Training School at Royal Air Force Finningley as an instructor. On completion of No 11 GD Aerosystems Course, Squadron Leader Thurston was posted to the Royal Air Force College, Department of Air Warfare as the Astronautics and Ballistic Missiles Specialist.

After the ceremony a luncheon was held in College Hall.



### No 11 GD AERO-SYSTEMS COURSE

Back Row (l to r): Flt Lt V Strachan: Flt Lt C Morris: Flt Lt S Heppenstall: Lt P Taylor RN: Flt Lt M Ellaway: Flt Lt A Thompson: Capt V Spreccenere IAF.  
Centre Row (l to r): Flt Lt K Walne: Flt Lt I Sampson: Flt Lt G Thurston: Flt Lt A Lovett: Flt Lt R Hardcastle RAAF: Flt Lt B Robinson RAAF: Flt Lt J Sabin: Lt C Landi IAF: Capt J Freedman USAF.  
Front Row (l to r): Lt P Fothergill RAN: Sqn Ldr K Bomber: Sqn Ldr D Adams: Sqn Ldr S Glencorse: Lt Cdr C Linsell RN: Sqn Ldr P Goodwin RAAF: Sqn Ldr R Kemp: Sqn Ldr P Barrett.