

GROUP CAPTAIN PETER JOHN GOODING AFC (K53-62)

Those who knew Peter at Brandeston (1953-57) will remember his enthusiasm then for flying aircraft models made in the hobbies hut. At Framlingham (1957-62) he was one of the founder members of the RAF section of the CCF, under John Maulden. Whilst at school he did a gliding course including solo flying at Martlesham Heath at age 16, followed by an RAF Flying Scholarship of 30 hours on a Tiger Moth biplane at Luton Airport. He was House Captain of Kerrison in his final year, and awarded School colours for squash.

Awarded an RAF Scholarship, he had a three year cadetship at the RAF College Cranwell from 1962-65, including the award of flying Wings. Course-mates included four other ex-CCF friends: John Ford, Mike Allport, Richard Johnson and Julian Stapleton. After advanced flying training his first appointment was as a flying instructor. After 18 months at RAF Syerston near Newark, he spent a year instructing at the Pakistan Air Force Academy at Risalpur, near Peshawar in the Northwest Frontier Region.



Returning to the UK in 1969, he was trained by the Royal Navy for his chosen front line aircraft: the Buccaneer nuclear strike and attack. He relished the two-seat low level role with a navigator, and served squadron tours in the maritime role at Honington near Bury St Edmunds from 1970-74, including a major detachment to Singapore. After promotion to Squadron Leader he was a flight commander on Buccaneers at Laarbruch in Germany, which included time on Quick Reaction Alert in the nuclear role, the RAF's first participation in the USAF Red Flag exercises in Nevada, and a year as display pilot. He was awarded the Air Force Cross for his overall performance in the air.

Ground tours inevitably followed, and after attending the Army Staff College in 1978, and marrying his wife, Rosemary, he spent two enjoyable years in Hong Kong as Military Assistant to the Commander British Forces.



Promoted to Wing Commander, he was selected to command the World's first Tornado squadron. After conversion training, he returned in 1982 to Honington to build-up No 9 Squadron and work to exploit the formidable capabilities of the new aircraft. This was a busy time for both Peter and Rosemary, as also their two sons were born in Bury St Edmunds. In 1985 he moved to MOD in Whitehall in the Air Plans department and then a short time on the directing staff of the RAF Staff College.

Promoted to Group Captain in 1990, he commanded the RAF's busiest flying training station at Linton-on-Ouse in Yorkshire, with a clutch of three airfields. Then a tour overseeing all flying training enabled a familiarisation course on helicopters, followed by 6 months commanding the RAF detachment in Incirlik, Turkey, in support of activity to protect the

Kurds in North Iraq. For his final appointment he became an expert in aviation safety, before retiring in 1998 to the family home near Oakham, Rutland after 37 years in the RAF.

Deciding he had not done enough flying, he gained an Airline Pilot's Licence, but decided military flying instruction would be more fun, so as a civilian he taught students of all three services plus some middle-eastern students at Cranwell. He also renewed acquaintance with the Tiger Moth, instructing at times at Duxford. He finally retired from commercial flying at age 75.

