

OBITUARY GEOFFREY POTT 1924 - 2018



Receiving the **ROC Commandants Certificate of Commendation**
from Observer Captain Joyce Shrubbs MBE September 1988

In the History of **The City of London Freemen's School** Geoffrey contributed a reminiscence of the pupils cutting their summer holiday short to prepare for wartime conditions. He was part of the pupil team digging and filling sand bags from the games field – conveyed by day boys on the handlebars of their bicycles to the main house where another team placed them against basement windows and built a lookout post by the balustrade. They then rigged up a telephone from there to the basement, which was to be their air raid shelter. All this was completed by the Declaration of War on 3rd September 1939.

Geoffrey served in the **Royal Air Force** as a Flight Mechanic Air Frames from 1942 – 1946: Serving in India building Hurricanes from kits sent from the UK for use in the war in Burma, forming close friendships with the pilots who flew them, and damaging his hearing with the noise. In 1945 he wrote this in his old school magazine :- *L.A.C Pott: On leave, mountaineering in the Himalayas, preparing servants, ponies and tents for an expedition up the Sind valley and on into Tibet.* After leaving the RAF, in 1946, he joined **The Midland Bank**: Central Hall, Westminster Branch, where he met his future wife Jean. They married in 1948.

He joined the **Royal Observer Corps** in June 1952 as an Observer serving in Horsham and Lincoln Groups. He was appointed Post Instructor in the rank of Leading Observer - followed later as Post Head Observer in the rank of Chief Observer.

He transferred to No. **15 Group, Fiskerton** in 1983 and was appointed Head Observer on Bardney Post from January 1987. During his service he attained 22 Master and 10 First Class Certificate passes. Geoffrey was awarded the **Royal Observer Corps Medal in 1964**. His first clasp was awarded in 1976 followed by his second clasp in 1988.

His Citation acknowledges that his operational expertise and his wealth of experience, coupled with his zeal and energy have contributed greatly to the success of the training of his Post Personnel and of the Group Generally. His dedication to the nuclear role of the ROC, during the Cold War was carried out with the same meticulous attention. In recognition of his unique record of service Geoffrey was awarded a Certificate of Commendation from the Commandant, Royal Observer Corps.

He was meticulous in his record keeping, reviewing Operating Procedures and recommending improvements and thanks to the **ROCA Heritage Team** his records now form part of the National Royal Observer Corps archive. He had extensive collections, many aircraft and transport magazines - was fascinated by planes – he had 50 completed models with another 100 in his attic yet to be made. Geoffrey had a Citizen Band Radio to monitor aircraft arrivals and departures, and recorded detailed weather conditions and rainfall for his region. He was a founder member of Air Britain, and created a Vulcan trophy which is now loaned to the **ROC Association**, by the family. It forms a trophy bearing his name and is presented annually at the National Reunion.

Geoffrey and Jean designed, and built, both of their homes; in Pyrford Surrey and Waverley in Woodhall Spa. They created a beautiful garden together – with roses, apple trees, a goldfish pond, a beautiful rockery, azaleas and golden elms. They fell in love with Italy and filled their house with lovely Murano glass.

At his funeral the family paid tribute to the Royal Observer Corps Association and the Royal Air Forces Association for the presence of their Standards. They offered a special thank you to the Standard Bearers, and to the Royal Observer Corps Association Heritage for their Poppy Wreath.

Rest in Peace Geoffrey

