

## OBITUARY



**Frank Ringrose Sauntson** Passed away 7<sup>Th</sup> August Aged 93 years

Frank was born in 1925 and at the age of 14 he left school and started work .also at this age he joined the Spalding **Air Training Corps** which due to the numbers attracted by the commencement of the war soon split into a further branch at Holbeach to which he transferred..

As soon as he was of age he joined the **Royal Air Force** and became a rear gunner on the Sunderland aircraft . Later in the final weeks of the War he took part in operation Manna dropping food to the starving in Holland .After the War he applied to join the Air Forces Association but was rejected for being too young.

In **1955** Frank joined the Holbeach Post of the **Royal Observer Corps** and took over as **Chief Observer in 1964** ,a position he held until retirement . The Post members soon under his tutorage became experts at Aircraft Recognition and won the Group recognition trophy on several occasions .

In **1971** he married **Jean Kerry** whom he had known for many years and together they began a happy life partnership. In addition to his ROC duties Frank maintained his connection with **Holbeach Air Cadets** teaching Aircraft recognition until retiring from this in 2011

After his retirement from the Corps Frank helped to form the **Spalding Branch** of the **ROC Association** and was initially the Treasurer before becoming **Branch Chairman** and latterly as **Branch President**

In addition to his ROCA interest Frank was the **Official Beacon Lighter** for The town of **Holbeach** since its first lighting in 1988

After Stand down and the disposal of the ROC posts in a variety of ways the Holbeach Post was acquired by The **Lincolnshire Heritage Trust** who called upon Frank's knowledge and advice and he was there to help and talk to people on open days .He produced a video for Heritage Lincolnshire giving the history of the Post from its early days until finish.

In addition to all the foregoing Frank and Jean between them raised huge sums of money for the **RAF Wings Appeal** Recognised by the award of a presentation from senior RAF Officials

**Frank** was well known throughout the Association and will be sadly missed by all who knew him . The Association is the poorer for his passing