



Royal Observer Corps



OBITUARY

OBS CAPT. JOHN MURPHY OBE

30TH January 1934 – 20th October 2014

John Murphy was born in Liverpool but spent much of his early boyhood in North Wales, when he was evacuated there during World War 2. He returned to his hometown when hostilities ceased.

In the early fifties he enlisted into the Army and trained as a parachutist with the Parachute Regiment. He saw service in the Middle East and took part in exercises in Egypt and Cyprus.

After his Army career, he joined the Royal Observer Corps in June 1967 in the rank of Observer Lieutenant, and was appointed Group Training officer in No. 7 Group Bedford. He was promoted to Obs/Lt/Commander in July 1970, and appointed Deputy Group Commandant at No. 15 Group Lincoln. In May 1974 he was posted to Headquarters ROC at RAF Bentley Priory and appointed as Ops 3 on the HQ staff.

On promotion to Observer Commander, in October 1977, he was posted to ROC Scottish area as Deputy Area Commandant. His experience, in both the operational and administrative roles, led to his return to HQ ROC at Bentley Priory, where he was appointed Senior Admin Officer, a role he was to hold for the next 7 years.

His final promotion, to Observer Captain, came in October 1988 when he was appointed Chief of Staff at ROC Headquarters. A position he held up to the stand down in July 1991. His finest hour came in July 1991, when he was significantly involved in organising the Royal Review by Her Majesty the Queen, at RAF Bentley Priory.

John was a much travelled man, throughout his ROC career, and was a well-known figure at Camps, Training meetings, and gatherings far and wide. He had a very good memory and could recall almost everyone by name wherever he went.

Rest in Peace John – you will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing you.

His Funeral took place at the West Herts Crematorium on the 31st. October 2014.