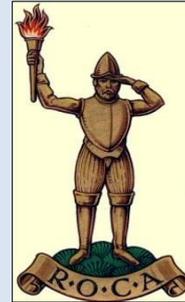


VIC HARSLEY 1934 - 2020



First and foremost Vic was a highly regarded and most professional officer in the Corps. He was described by one ROC Commandant as *“One of the best fulltime officers in the Corps.”* Following his service in the Royal Marines, he became a draughtsman at Headquarters Royal Observer Corps at Bentley Priory and was responsible for many of the map displays throughout Groups. During his time at HQROC he enrolled as a fulltime officer and was appointed Group Staff Officer in Oxford Group. His officer qualities soon became apparent and he was promoted to Observer Lieutenant Commander and appointed Deputy Group Commandant at Oxford.

Terry Austin writes: *“When I was appointed Group Commandant at Oxford in 1984 he went out of his way to support me in my new role. He was greatly valued as a colleague. It was inevitable that his professionalism would be recognised and he was posted as Area Staff Officer to Metropolitan Area at Horsham.”*

Promotion to Observer Commander soon followed and Vic was appointed Deputy Area Commandant at Midland Area in Lincoln in 1990.

Michael Marks writes: *“I had the pleasure of knowing Vic both operationally during the brief time we served together, at Midland Area (up to the stand down in 1991), and socially for many years afterwards with the ROC Association. He was very professional in all that he did and fitted the ‘Officer and a Gentleman’ description perfectly”.*

From 1994 he was Chairman of No 3 Group ROC Association, known as The Zebra Club, and following the death of Roy Clinch in 1996 Vic became the Group newsletter editor. He continued to support the Association and even his move to Melksham did not reduce his enthusiasm. In addition to attending many local events Vic attended the National Reunions too.

Vic's son **Neil Harsley** writes:

“Vic was married to Ann for forty years until her death in 2003. They met whilst they were both working at the Crown Estate and married in 1963. Ann supported him throughout his career and they adopted me in 1968.

Whilst working in Horsham, Vic enjoyed lodging with Roy and Marie Smith, where Roy was a Senior ROC Officer

He and Ann enjoyed caravanning, and in retirement, bought themselves a motor home embarking on many adventures around the UK and Europe. Whilst visiting Ann's brother in Canada, they hired a Winnebago and travelled across the country.

Neil married Paula in 1995 and they gave Vic and Ann a grandson, Michael in May 1999. Grand-daughter, Gemma was born in 2001.

Vic moved to Wiltshire in 2015 to live closer to Neil and his family. When he became too ill to look after himself from his dementia, he moved in with them and they cared for him until his death.”

Vic will be fondly remembered by all who knew him and he will be sadly missed. His funeral will take place on the 14th December at Semington Crematorium. Donations to his memory can be offered to Dementia UK

REST IN PEACE VIC

*December 9th 2020
ROC Association*