

Roy O'Connell



On passing out of the apprentices I was posted as a Jnr Tech Ground Radar Fitter to GRIS at RAF Henlow and 15 months later to RAF Newton for a 6 week introduction course on Bloodhound Mk2 before going to No 17 Joint Services Trials Unit (JSTU) at Ferranti Manchester to work on the introduction of the Mark 2 version.

In 1962 I moved with the JSTU to RAF North Coates and on completion of the trials I was posted to 112 Squadron at Woodhall Spa.

In 1967 I was posted to Cyprus with the 112 Squadron and met Darryl, who was a Civil Servant working with MPBW. We were married in Episkopi in 1969. From Cyprus I was posted to Ulster Radar T80 and FPS6 at Bishops Court.

Another Bloodhound tour followed between 1972 and 1975, this time at RAF Laarbruch in Germany with 25 Squadron. In 1975 my first tour of RAF North Luffenham began, third line PAR, where I was initially i/c the PAR bay and on promotion to Flight Sergeant in 1977 took over the AR1/AR15 section until 1979.

I was then posted to Benbecula in the Hebrides, promoted to Warrant Officer, and took over as OC Bloodhound Missile Firings at Aberporth Ranges in 1980 for three years.

In 1983 it was back to RAF Newton, this time as WO i/c Missile Training School and a move with the School to RAF North Coates.



I wasn't at North Coates long before I was detached for four months to 303 SU Mount Kent in the Falkland Islands.

Upon my return I found I had been disestablished and posted to MOD Harrogate, ranging and scaling air to air missile spares, but after just one year I was posted back to North Luffenham, this time as i/c Ground Radio Engineering Development and Investigating Team.

After exactly 38 years service, in 1994, I retired from the RAF and spend my time on holidays hill walking in the Lake District, looking after my allotment, reading and lazing around.

During my time in the RAF I represented various commands at Rugby, Athletics and Squash and received several honours namely, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1975 followed by the clasp in 1990, the AOC 11 Group Commendation in 1980, the Meritorious Service Medal in 1985 and the AOC Training Units Commendation in 1987 and in 1994 the C in C's Commendation.