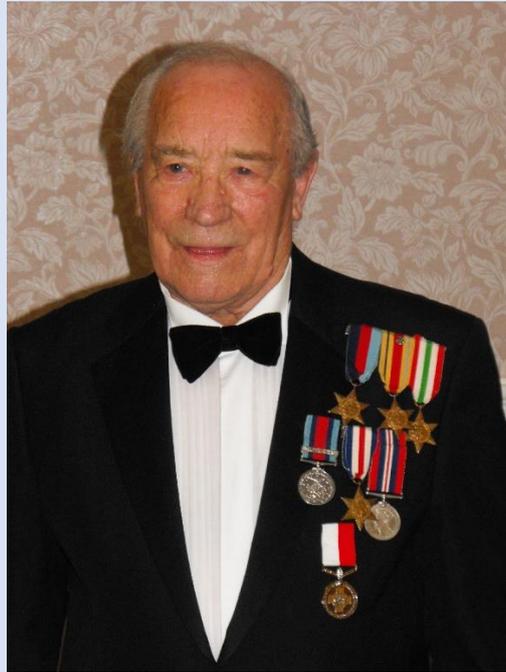


Geoffrey Ratcliffe



Geoffrey Ratcliffe passed away on May 25th 2015 aged 92. Unusually he served twice with the Tigers during the war, first joining them in January 1942 in Northern Ireland before moving on to 126 Squadron who were flying Spitfires during the Malta campaign, then returning to 74 in May 1944 and staying until 1946. During the latter part of this posting he was involved in the squadron's change from Spitfires to Meteors. Serving six years in total in the RAF, Geoff held the rank of AC1 Fitter 2A.

Geoff's son Glenn arranged a splendid send off for him. He writes: "we gave dad the most amazing send off. I thought I would call RAF Wittering not far from where we live. They were most helpful and on the day of the funeral we had an honour guard made up of four members of the Engineering Section and the Squadron Commander so there was a Group Captain, a Squadron Leader, a Flight Sergeant and two SACs. I then thought 'in for a penny in for a pound' as the BBMF is based just up the road and I asked whether there might be a training flight happening on the day about that time. I was told that it was unlikely - however they would see and I was delighted when Sqn Ldr Andy Millican called to say that he would be flying a Spitfire down to Runnymede that very day and that as the pub at Ufford where we were holding dad's wake was on his direct route back to Coningsby he would make a low pass. Sqn Ldr Millican certainly pulled out the stops: he circled the pub with three low passes and waggled the wings on departure. Dad would have loved it and it was a very fitting end to his long life."