



Wing Commander Barney Bullocke

Sadly, we have to report the death of Michael Barnabas Bullocke, better known as Barney, on April 8th. He was 82. Barney was father to Elanor and Christopher (from his marriage to Vikki Pitcher) and stepfather to Sharon and Robert (from his marriage to Trish Lloyd).

After a childhood spent in Devon and Weymouth he served for 34 years in the RAF. His principal postings were to 111 Squadron from 1964 to 1966 and again 1968 to 1970 at Wattisham, which included participation in the Paris and Biggin Hill Air Shows in 1965: 226 OCU from 1966 to 1968 at Coltishall: and promotion to Squadron Leader and a posting to the Tigers at Tengah from 1970 to 1971 where he qualified as a QFI. In April 1971 Barney was the organiser of Exercise Tiger Trek, the purpose of which was participation in the Royal Australian Air Force Golden Jubilee celebrations.

On August 25th 1971 the Tigers disbanded. The disbandment parade was reviewed by the Commander of the Far Eastern Air Force, AVM Nigel Maynard. As a single flypast was made by four Lightnings led by Barney a General Salute was given: then at dusk, in a glorious Singapore sunset and with the band playing Auld Lang Syne, a lone Lightning piloted by Barney appeared almost silently from behind the saluting dais on reduced power as the standard was being marched off in slow time. At the last moment Barney selected 100 percent power and pulled the Lightning into the vertical, climbing spectacularly skywards with reheat aglow in the gathering darkness. At 20,000 feet reheat was cancelled at exactly the same time as the parade ground floodlights were switched off and the band stopped playing. A visiting RAAF officer who was present was heard to mutter: 'Strewth! Now that was bloody clever!'

After 74 Barney was a Flight Commander on 92 Squadron at Gutersloh then Officer Commanding of 23 Squadron at Wattisham which included the Queen's birthday flypast in 1978: during his tenure, 23 was commended as the most efficient fighter squadron in 1979. His career also took him to Bracknell and Cranwell.

Once his flying came to an end Barney completed tours in the Falklands, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and at the MoD working on specifications for the Typhoon. On retirement he moved to the Cotswolds with his second wife Trish. Apart from fighter aircraft and the RAF his interests lay in human evolution, musical theatre (he co-wrote a play called *Number Nine*), MGs and canoeing.

RIP Barney.