

Derek Morter, who has lived in France for many years, died on 28th September. Born in Norwich, Derek was a Tiger from January 1952 to October 1954, and as a Pilot then Flying Officer with the squadron he flew the Meteor FMk8. During his time with 74 he served under an American CO, Lt Col Milholland USAF. Also on the squadron when Derek was there was US Marine Captain Hal Berge on exchange as well as Australian Flying Officer Griff Boord.

Derek's 20 years of RAF service was interestingly varied and certainly a busy one. It reads as follows - with thanks to **John White CBE FRAeS** of the Hunter Register via **Eileen Morter**.



16 Jan - 30 Mar 1948	No 1 Recruit Unit, Cardington
23 Apr - 15 Nov 1948	No 2 Radio School, Yatesbury.
16 Nov - 1 May 1949	No 1 Radio School Cranwell
1 May - 6 July 1949	ACTU, Kirtton in Lindsey
7 July 49 - 17 Apr 1951	No. 4 FTS Heany, Southern Rhodesia.
21 March 1951	Commissioned
8 May - 19 June 1951	No. 5 Personnel Despatch Centre Hednesford.
20 June - 10 Aug 1951	No.2 FTS South Cerney. Rhodesian Refresher Course.
15 Aug - 23 Nov 1951	No. 205 AFS Middleton St George.
28 Nov - 21 Jan 1952	No. 226 OCU Stradishall
21 Jan - 2 Oct 1954	No.74 Squadron Horsham St Faith.
4 Oct -13 Oct 1954	No. 551 Wing Gutersloh.
14 Oct - 8 Nov 1954	No 34 Wing IRE Buckeburg
8 Nov - 23 Nov 1955	No 34 Wing IRE/ Flying Wing Adjutant. Laarbruch.
23 Nov - 7 Oct 1957	No 124 Wing IRE/ OC Station Flight Oldenburg.
25 Mar - 30 Mar 57	First Flight Safety Course, Air Ministry Whitehall.
27 Oct - 16 Mar 1958	No 124 Wing IRE/OC Station Flight Ahlhorn.
13 Apr - 24 Aug 1958	Ops F4 D MOD Whitehall
24 Aug '58 - 26 Jan '60	Flying Wing Adjutant 229 OCU Chivenor
27 Jan - 30 Dec 1960	B Flt Cdr No. 20 Squadron Gutersloh
1 Jan 61 - 16 Dec 1962	A Flt Cdr No. 14 Squadron Gutersloh
2 Jan 63-6 May 1965	Tactical Instructor 229 OCU Chivenor
6 May 65 - 6 Jan 1966	BASO, HQMEAF. Steamer Point, Aden.
6 Jan 66 - 1 May 1967	BASO HQMEAF Aden and 24 Infantry Brigade Little Aden. And very often BASO/OC RAF Detachment at Al Habilayn.
2 May 67 - 18 Apr 1968	Hunter Sim No 229 OCU Chivenor
April 1968	Retired from the Royal Air Force
Nov and Dec 1968	Sabre Training Unit, RCAF Chatham, Canada.
Apr 1969	F-86 Instructor Upgrade, Air National Guard, Baltimore, USA.
May 1970 - Dec 1972	Fleet Requirements Unit Hurn (Airwork)
Dec 1972 - July 1985	Fleet Requirement and Air Direction Unit (FRADU) , RNAS Yeovilton. (Airwork and Flight Refuelling)
1975	Formed and led the Blue Herons Aerobatic Team of 4 x GA11 Hunters. Led the team until 1980 when it disbanded.



Left - the Blue Herons 1976. Derek front right.

Above - the Blue Herons 1977. Winners of the Shell UK Oil Trophy awarded for the best overall performance at the Silver Jubilee International Air Tattoo held that year at Greenham Common. Derek second from the right.

Derek retired with a total of 9,000 hours in his log books. 6,500 of these were in Hunters (1,000 hours with the RAF and 5,500 hours with the FRADU.) It was after FRADU that the Morter family retired to France.