

Flight Lieutenant M J Bell RAF VR(T)
Wing Media Communications Officer

Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing
Air Training Corps

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OBITUARY

The death has occurred of serving Civilian Instructor Mr Eric Hinchliffe from 460 (Dunstable) Squadron Air Training Corps. He was 72.

Born in Manchester as an only child, the family moved to Colwyn Bay North Wales to escape the ravages of War, and it was here as a youngster he joined the Air Training Corps, and then the RAF for his National Service. Most of his time was spent in the RAF at Boscombe Down. His early apprenticeship, as a tool-maker was put to good use in the Armoury. His heart though was always in Wales and in 1955 he married Ethal in Penrhyn Bay and they had two daughters. When he was de-mobbed he returned home to Wales and back into Engineering until 1962 when he moved to Dunstable and an Engineering job making specialised parts for Rolls Royce, British Aerospace and the local car manufacturers.

Top of the list of Eric's hobbies was the ATC. He could always be relied on to teach Propulsion, make the tea and provide a Taxi service for the Cadets so they could enjoy the various activities provided. Such was his belief in the organisation that gave him the same opportunities when he was a Cadet that he wanted to give something back. His stalwart support, willingness, sense of humour, bubbly personality, enthusiasm for life and 25 years of loyal service to the organisation made him very special.

The funeral service took place on November 9th at Luton Crematorium conducted by Rev Sheila Morton former 460 Squadron Padre, attended by the Beds & Cambs Wing Chaplain Rev Steve Pullan. His coffin was draped in the Royal Air Force Association Standard, of which he was a member. Cadets from 460 Squadron provided a Guard of Honour for the hearse, and members of RAFA and former 460 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force Veterans provided a Guard of Honour inside the Crematorium. Former Cadets, now in the Royal Air Force were also in attendance, as well as former and serving Staff.

Eric will be greatly missed. The Commanding Officer of 460 Flt. Lt. Mick Bell said "In this time with the Air Cadets Eric has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of young people of Dunstable through his teaching, mentoring and example of service, loyalty and duty, he will be sorely missed".

He leaves a widow Ethal, daughters Nicola and Aundrea, 4 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Margaret Bell

M J BELL
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for OC Wing



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