

WING COMMANDER JULIAN STAPLETON MBE (G58-63)

Wing Commander Julian Stapleton had a 24-year career in the Royal Air Force. After a 3-year Cadetship at the RAF College Cranwell, he was commissioned in 1967 into the Supply Branch having gained specialist qualifications in Explosives, Fuels Management and Air Movements. As a junior officer, he served in various logistics appointments supporting flying and specialist operations in the UK (including Northern Ireland), Europe, the Mediterranean (including Cyprus), the USA, Peru, Hong Kong, and the Maldives Islands. During these tours, he provided supply support for most of the RAF's front line aircraft as well as for The Red Arrows and The Queen's Flight.



He was appointed MBE in 1981 for his work as the Unit Commander and on-site Project Leader for the reactivation of the flying training station at RAF Church Fenton in North Yorkshire. This was a significant building and infrastructure task which was successfully completed within budget and ahead of the 2-year schedule. Whilst overseas, he operated in both NATO and UN environments. In addition to working at every level of the Defence procurement cycle, he also served in two personal appointments – as ADC to the (4-star) Commander-in-Chief of RAF Strike Command at High Wycombe, and as Personal Staff Officer to the (2-star) Director General of Supply (RAF) at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall.



He attended the 1982 course at the RAF Staff College Bracknell, to which he subsequently returned for a 2½-year tour on the Directing Staff after serving on the MOD's Central Staff as Assistant Director of the Joint Services Contingency Planning Team. His final Service appointment, before taking early retirement to join Marshall of Cambridge Aerospace Ltd in 1988, was as the Commanding Officer of the RAF's ammunition storage and maintenance depot at RAF Chilmark in Wiltshire.

Since 2002, he has been a civilian instructor at the Defence School of Languages at Beaconsfield, preparing international military officers for their attendance on UK courses, including those at the Joint Services Command & Staff College at Shrivenham and the Royal College of Defence Studies in London.

Below are a couple of photos of him with his distinguished step father Air Commodore "Teddy" Donaldson CB CBE DSO AFC* LoM (USA), who flew Hurricanes in the Battle of Britain and broke the world air speed record in 1946. Sadly "Teddy" didn't attend the College.



Julian has also recently contributed to a book about his step father and you can see the cover below.

