

## **GROUP CAPTAIN JAMES C MARMION, OBE (d. 2014)**

James died on 8 June 2014, in Instow, N Devon. He was born in Liverpool, the oldest of five children, educated in the local primary school and then St Xavier's College. He worked for Carlyle's Sugar Company until his 18th birthday in 1942 when he volunteered for the RAF. After pilot training in the USA and Canada he was put on active duty in the Pacific as a navigator/bomb aimer flying Catalinas out of Cocos Island.

After the war he served on a variety of squadrons in Bomber Command, one posting being at RAF Chivenor in Devon as the station adjutant, and it was here that he took a shine to Stella Hustwayte, a young teacher in the village school. They married in Instow in 1948, and their two sons were born in 1949 and 1953.

He had several interesting postings, including 138 Squadron flying Valiants, the first of the UK's nuclear capable V-bombers, one to Dayton, Ohio (USA), and another to Singapore. His final posting was as Assistant Chief of Staff (Intel) in Ramstein, Germany, under the NATO command structure.

When he retired to Weston Favell, Northants, he accepted a post as a Crown servant which he followed for five years until his final retirement in 1984. Shortly after that Stella and he bought a house in Deddington, near to the Venerable and Mrs Hewitt Wilson, the parents of Kathryn who married their eldest son Robert in 1975. In 2007 they made their final move to Instow, which Stella considered her home town.

James developed Parkinson's disease some time in the early 1990s, around the same time as his eyesight failed. However, he held sternly on to his independence until he physically could not sustain himself. He also retained his razor-sharp intellect, dry sense of humour and his steel trap memory until the very last. James is survived by his wife, Stella, his two sons Robert and Roger, their wives Kathryn and Janet, his three grandchildren and one surviving sister Angela. He is dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

*Robert Marmion*