

## Pat Thurlow



**Pat Thurlow passed away on Tuesday, 3rd July 2018. He was 89.**

**Those of you who attend reunions regularly know that Pat was an ever present, latterly thanks to his two daughters Bea and Judy who accompanied him. Pat was a true Tiger and a real gentleman. He had a long and distinguished RAF career from 1947 until 1984 (he retired as a Warrant Officer) but on 74 he was a Chief Technician between 1960 and 1967. During that time he was instrumental along with the rest of the squadron in introducing the Lightning into RAF operational service. The early days of the Lightning were beset by a catalogue of engineering problems and Pat was at the forefront of solving those problems and of course managing and motivating the engineering ground crew for whom he was responsible. Pat's contribution to keeping the Lightning's flying was rewarded by the award of the British Empire Medal, announced in the New Year's Honours List of 1963, which in his modest way he insisted was an award for the squadron as a whole for its dedication and hard work since the first aircraft arrived.**

**Pat's funeral was at the Bedford Crematorium on 27th July 2018. Our thoughts are very much with Bea and Judy and their families.**