

BELLAS, BRIAN

RANK: CAPTAIN

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE:

SHIPS:

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: CYPRUS, SUEZ, BORNEO, KUWAIT, N. IRELAND

UNITS: 40 & 42 COMMANDO

1954-1991 born in 1936

On leaving school went on a farm for a year and became head pigman! But then head tractor driver. Bored by the work he decided to do something else. His father, a master mariner, sang the praises of a royal marine sergeant who manned a 12-pounder gun on his merchant ship in WWII. As a result Brian joined up at Deal. He explains his training in great detail which took 47 weeks.

Deployed to Cyprus in 40 Cdo but then suddenly in 1956 the Cdo was withdrawn to prepare for the Suez Operation, He describes landing in an Amtrac across the beaches and various skirmishes with the Egyptians. Later back to Cyprus involved in anti-terrorist activities.

His next story is about serving in 42 Cdo as a sergeant in Singapore but during that time serving in Borneo, up country Aden at Dhala in support of 45 Cdo and finally a sudden move to Kuwait to deter Iraq's threat to invade Kuwait and how ill prepared they were. The recording stops suddenly there which is sad as Brian's story is full of interesting insights and accurately captures Corps training and operations in the late 50s.