

OAKLEY, DEREK

RANK: CAPTAIN

DECORATIONS: MBE

YEARS OF SERVICE:

SHIPS: HMS THESEUS, HMS NEWCASTLE

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: CANAL ZONE, MALAYSIAN EMERGENCY, SUEZ, BORNEO

UNITS: 45 & 42 COMMANDO, 3 COMMANDO, BRIGADE HQ

Joined the Royal Marines in 1944 at Eastney. First draft to HMS THESEUS on operational workup tour in Far East. On return did Commando course at Bickleigh and then Assault Engineers course.

Joined 45 Commando in 1949 in Malta. Deployed to Libya, Palestine, Canal Zone finally Hong Kong. In 1950, 3 Commando Brigade deployed to Malaya for CT Emergency. Derek went on Jungle Warfare course, then trained Commando in jungle warfare skills. Operated with Ibans (local trackers) and experienced 2 contacts and ambushes, killing several Communist Terrorists. Harassed terrorists by firing into jungle from adapted steam engine train. Derek then served on HMS Newcastle in 1954, off the Malayan coast carrying out NGS firings.

Drafted to 42 Commando and took part in the Amphibious landings at Suez in 1956, as a troop commander in an opposed landing in an LVT. Although the landing was curtailed, 42 spent another month in Suez clearing the area.

[In early 1960s he is back to Singapore as G3 Int in HQ 3 Commando Brigade, involved in the Brunei Revolt and subsequent operations in Sarawak]. *Not covered in recording.*

In 1965 to Eastney as first RM ADC to Earl Mountbatten for two years. Attended national events. (Funerals of Eisenhower and Shastri - Later a key role in Mountbatten's funeral.). Then trained to become one of first airborne FACs, in Singapore and Hong Kong. Throughout played much cricket (to Naval level,) and Hockey.

Selected to be Editor of the Globe and Laurel Magazine in 1970- held for 18 years Retired at 60. Did voluntary work for the RMHS (Vice President and prolific author) and for the local Theatre Company on Hayling Island.