

## **SHARLAND, CHRIS**

**RANK:** MAJOR

**DECORATIONS:**

**YEARS OF SERVICE:**

**SHIPS:**

**OPERATIONAL SERVICE:** SUEZ

**UNITS:**

This is about Chris Sharland's experiences in command of a motor launch (ML) at Suez in 1956. Took command of ML 2583 in Malta in 1955 as part of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron. 18 in crew. Purpose was as navigation leader for the landing craft. ML had to go ashore and lay a Dan Buoy about 3 miles off the beach. They had inshore radar and some unreliable radios.

Plan to land at Alexander was changed to Suez. 3 months to rehearse a daylight operation. After 7 days arrived off Suez. They were sent in to lay their navigation Dan Buoy. At a critical moment the radar failed but after an all-night struggle managed to repair it. As they moved in destroyers either side gave protection. Assault started at first light but finished by 0800. All went except they advanced too fast. They picked up VIP's, General Stockwell, Admiral Durnford Slater and an airman to receive surrender. With concern realised they were too far ahead of the front line and being hit by small arms fire. Managed to retreat and drop of their VIP's. Short of fuel so went scrounging ashore.