

DAVIS, GEORGE

RANK: QUATERMASTER SERGEANT

DECORATIONS: MENTION IN DISPATCHES ?

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1939 –1956 ?

SHIPS: HMS CUMBERLAND

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: BATTLE OF RIVER PLATE, RUSSIAN CONVEYS

UNITS: SMALL RAIDS WING(SBS), RHINE SQUADRON, 45 COMMANDO

Born in London, he had to start work at 14. He boxed for local club and heard stories from a retired Royal Marines there.

Found basic training a bit of a shock but thought it was good (though Officers distant). Most of squad were drafted to HMS ROYAL OAK and were lost in her sinking. He joined HMS CUMBERLAND. Roles were Naval Gunnery (X turret.) Involved in the Battle of the River Plate. Damaged by a shore battery during Dakar operation. Deployed on Artic Convoys, under constant contact with enemy aircraft, submarines. They were at sea once for 298 days nonstop.

On return to Eastney volunteered to join Blondie Hasler group, selected and carried out strenuous physical battle training, only a few selected to join Detachment 375. They moved to Ceylon, trained with submarines, and Catalina flying boats. Carried out Operation DEFRAUD. In 1945 from Madras, using submarines and other operations behind enemy lines. At Japanese surrender, George was official photographer.

Back in UK, first at Appledore, then Eastney, still with Hasler, he was part of the Small Raids Wing. They carried out trials with parachutes, submarines, explosives and diving. In 1953 moved to the Rhine Squadron with the SBS, dodging the shipping and acting as emergency diving team.

In 1953 George did Commando course. To 45 Commando in Cyprus (Troodos mountains). When he left, having done his time, He joined the Police, but decided to re-join.

He started out in a squad in Deal but was quickly was moved to Poole and promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant. Trained in Canoeing, then became the Provost sergeant

On leaving, joined the Career Service for 19 years in Hartlepool. Commissioned to Lieutenant. Then became General Secretary for the Northampton Association for the Blind, successfully running two homes and a factory.