

STREET, JOHN 'JOE'

RANK: LIEUTENANT

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1941-1946

SHIPS:

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: WWII, FAR EAST, HILL 170 KANGAW 1944

UNITS: TRAINING 1 BATTALION, 42 COMMANDO

Enlisted 14th October 1941 as Second Lieutenant. Demobilised 1946 aged 22/23. Trained at Thurlestone, Hayling Island and then Bridge of Allan joining 1st Bn RM (Col Leicester). Battalion left for Wales in mid-1942, then New Forest and Sway. 1st Bn RM (now 42 Commando) sent to India with Joe Street as Mortar Troop Officer. Bombed whilst transiting the Mediterranean: arrived Bombay and went to acclimatisation and training camps at Poona, Goa, Madras and, by Christmas 1944, Chittagong. Began small-scale raids before landing at Akyab and then Myebon. Brigade, under Brig Campbell Hardy, then moved to Kangaw.

42 Commando assaulted Hill 170 with a bayonet charge to clear the Japanese. Street describes how his troop worked independently and how his mortars were 'fired vertically' at the Japanese 100yds away on the other side of the hill. Also describes Japanese patrols, trench-digging, communication and re-supply problems during the heavy fighting. Following the Burma Campaign unit was withdrawn to Bombay for R&R. Street was a Company Commander. At Dalditch from December 1945 until demobilisation (May 1946). Interesting comments about return visit to Kangaw by Joe and wife.