

WESTON, JOHN

RANK: LIEUTENANT COLONEL

DECORATIONS: MILITARY CROSS

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1946 – 1978

SHIPS:

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: FALKLANDS (EARLY), CYPRUS, SUEZ, BORNEO

UNITS: 45 AND 40 COMMANDOS

A 32-year career from 1946 – 1978 described by a modest man setting out his appointments in broad context and matter of fact language, complete with amusing anecdotes. First appointments completed as a 'blue bereted' subaltern, before operational service with 45 Commando in Suez 1957 (seriously wounded) and with 40 Commando in Borneo 1965 (awarded MC), then mainly staff appointments 1967 - 1978.

Born 1928 when RM father Chief Instructor at Chatham; he joined for 3.5 years officer training in 1946, starting at Deal but with RN and Army courses, including learning to fly! Training completed, early appointments were 'blue bereted', first to 4th Raiding Sqn in Plymouth and then in 1952 a 'crash deployment' via RN Frigate to the Falkland Islands where he activated the WW1 Moody Brook Camp (still being used by NP8901 in 1982!).

Completed Commando Course at Bickleigh in 1954 and joined 45 Commando for Cyprus and Suez, where seriously wounded in 'blue on blue' attack by RN aircraft; the Corps then sent him to be a Forward Air Controller! - on HMS Bulwark's first commission as a Commando Carrier; he describes early tensions between the RN and RM.

Highlight of career: 1964-66 Company Commander with 40 Commando in Borneo; responsible for huge border area and was awarded MC for successful company cross border operation.

There followed staff appointments with the Navy and the Corps at MOD London and HQ Commando Forces Plymouth, ending time in the Corps with the USMC at Quantico in 1978.

Clearly a strong family man, he talks about wife Pam and children who accompanied him on most appointments. He ended his working life with 10 years as Senior Education Officer for the Design Council. He loves snakes!