

MEAD MM, MIKE 'STICKS'

RANK: MAJOR

DECORATIONS: MILITARY MEDAL

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1951 – 1986

SHIPS: HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, HMS ALBION AND HMS WARRIOR (SHORE ESTABLISHMENT)

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: CYPRUS, SUEZ

UNITS: 45 COMMANDO, 42 COMMANDO, 43 COMMANDO, COMMANDO LOGISTICS REGIMENT (AS QM)

From Boy Bugler aged 15 to Major RM, with particular reference to action as a 45 Commando Section 2nd in Command at Suez, where wounded and awarded Military Medal. Then description of a 35-year distinguished RM Career, revealing a serious independent minded character.

Born in 1936, his father in the Corps 1914 – 1936 and again in WW2 but killed at sea. Mother died at age 14. Mike always wanted to join the Corps; after Royal Hospital School, joined at Deal in 1951. Served at sea as Bugler in HMS Illustrious before transferring to GD Branch, awarded Kings Badge and passed out in 1955.

Lengthy descriptions of action with 45 Commando as a Corporal in Cyprus and at Suez in 1957 (first helicopter assault); caught in 'blue-on-blue' attack by RN aircraft, several casualties, Mike wounded but carried on – awarded Military Medal.

He served as Sergeant with 42 Commando in HMS Bulwark and in Singapore. Then 43 Commando (based Stonehouse). Did Platoon Weapons 1 Course. Promoted Colour Sergeant in 1966. Commissioned SD Officer in 1967 and completed wide range of typical SD appointments; especially enjoyed ASO HMS Albion in 1971 and OCRM HMS Warrior (Northwood) in 1975. Mike retired as a Major aged 50 as Corps Paymaster and Records Officer in 1986.

He then joined Bacardi Martini as their Health and Safety Security Officer in Southampton for 13 years. He has been married to Valerie for 60 years with 2 children.