

WHITEHEAD, PAUL

RANK: MAJOR

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1947-1970

SHIPS: HMS DUKE OF YORK

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: MALAYAN EMERGENCY, CANAL ZONE, CYPRUS, SUEZ, RADFAN

UNITS: 40 & 45 COMMANDO

Varied career involved in most post-war ops as Troop Commander, MTO and Company Commander, but also in junior staff appointments.

Joined as 2nd Lieutenant October 1947. Nearly 4 years of training included RN Electrical Course, Torpedo Course, 6 months at sea in *Duke of York*, Army PI Commando Course and 6 weeks on the Senior Lieutenants Air Course at HMS Siskin (Gosport) where they all learned how to fly! Commando Course interrupted by knee injury so no 30 miler but awarded green lid.

Joined Y Troop, 40 Commando in Malaya in 1951. Spent best part of a year there rehousing civilian population to cut off terrorists' supplies. Successful COIN campaign learning man management, tactics and how to sweat!

Returned to Malta with rest of 3 Commando Brigade in 1952, then to the Canal Zone when Nasser came to power. 8-month MTO Course at Fort Cumberland, including 2 weeks with Metropolitan Police at Hendon in squad cars! Joined Depot Deal as MTO for 2 years then re-joined 40 Commando in Cyprus in 1956 at the height of the EOKA Campaign. Back to Malta to prepare for Suez. Much planning led to a successful operation – was first man ashore on a motorbike and scooted around solving problems.

Joined 42 Commando as MTO late 1958. Deployed to Syria for the Lebanon Crisis. On return promoted Captain and joined Deal as Staff Officer RMBS. Learned much about RMBS, then sent to Portsmouth as Staff Captain Training under much respected Titch Houghton. Joined 45 Commando for interesting tour in Aden as OC Y Company then Adjutant under Paddy Stevens.

Next, was DAA&QMG in MOD “pushing paper around” and organising RM contribution to ceremonial events. Then on to Poole in 1967 as OC Landing Craft Company (no training as Landing Craft Officer!) and finished as OC Technical Company in Fort Cumberland. One of last duties was to prepare initial report establishing Comacchio Company.