

WILLIAMS-JONES, PHILIP

RANK: MARINE

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1947 – 1949, NATIONAL SERVICE

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: PALESTINE

UNITS: 45 COMMANDO O FORCE

Two years' National Service 1947-9 in 45 Commando.

One of 2/32 accepted for RM Service at Wrexham Careers Office. His NS squad trained together with 4 other CS squads at Deal. Remembers too much square-bashing and spit-n-polish. On to Lympstone and Commando School at Bickleigh, where feet didn't touch the ground for 3 weeks!

Joined Holding Company in Stonehouse for 3 weeks before boarding SS *Otranto* for Malta. Assigned to 45 Commando the night before disembarking. Days spent on ranges and speed marching around the island. Unit was airlifted via Benghazi to Haifa for the last days of the Palestine operation.

Back to Malta then off to Tarhuna in Libya. Clearing up after the Army unit they relieved reconfirmed their Pongo nickname! Spent much time live firing and discovering WW2 relics. Then off to Egypt to become part of O Force separating Israeli and Arab forces as member of Intelligence Section.

Time finished out there and he hitched a series of sea and air lifts back home using up his 28 days Foreign Service Leave. Regrets not accepting offer of a commission during training but joined RWF TA and finished up as a Colonel.