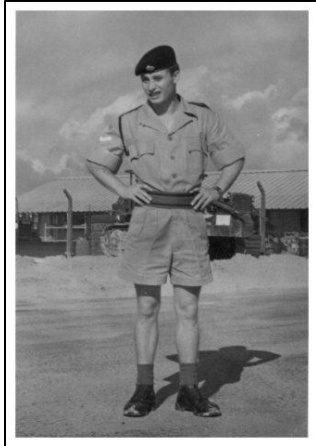


MY TIME IN THE ARMY AND IN ADEN.
BY DENNIS FLAMSON SECRETARY ADEN VETERANS
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The adventure started with me travelling to Southwood army camp to join the Royal Engineers near Aldershot. I have 18 weeks of training then held in Holding and Drafting until my 18th birthday. Then I was posted to Long Marston Stratford upon Avon 39 Engineering Regiment. From this moment I became a technical store man, Crane Driver and many more tasks to my credit. I passed my Trade B1 B2 B3 and my education levels to WO1 level. On we go to be posted to Aden. To my astonishment by the sea. LSL Sir Galahad reinforcements for the withdrawal from Aden in November of 1967.

The passage through the Bay of Biscay was indeed horrendous. Then we arrived at the port at Steamer Point. I was assigned to unload the kit bags and horrible green suitcases onto barges. We were not happy, as we unloaded three quarters of this kit, an officer on the docs told us to stop and reload all the kit back onto the barge. He explained that the press wanted to see us off loading the kit for a program All our Yesterdays to capture the event. In that heat you can imagine what we thought of that officer and film crew. We were now 63 MELF PARK Squadron. Middle East Land Forces. When we finished, we were taken to Anzio Barracks Little Aden.

During my stay we were in a continuous state of emergency and always armed when leaving the camp for various duties including numerous convoy trips to the port and airfield and the Darla Road.

We left Aden by air on a BOAC VC 10 in November. Boy, was I glad to leave never to return. I came back with Prickly Heat and suffered for some time. The highlight of my time was a parcel from my Mam which stank the post office out. The Sargent gave me a shovel and a bag of lime and told me to dig a hole and bury whatever was in the rancid parcel. Well, I opened it and found a cooked chicken wrapped in baked foil and a letter plus sweets and five one pound notes all stuck together which had taken 4/5 weeks to get to me by sea. I disposed of the now Rancid chicken the sweets just melted to fluid, and I could not use the bank notes as they went white in the heat. It took a couple of months to decipher the Gallick written Geordy words that my Mam had written.

I was posted back to Long Marston to carry on with my education and Trade Training and of course promotion. We were called ever ready able to go at short notice anywhere. Foot and mouth disease broke out and we were sent to Oswestry to assist in fumigating farms all around the area.

Then out of the blue I was posted again to the middle east. Sharja and Bahrain. Again, various duties looking after stores and airfield construction.

I returned after 9 months to Water beach camp Cambridge as a technical store man and Plant Troop Airfield construction with 39 Engineer Regiment.

My next post was with ANZUK. Australian New Zealand United Kingdom Force administered by the Australians in Singapore. My role was to distribute all Ration stores on the base of HMS Terror, which included the Royal Navy Ships that docked in Sembawang shipyard.

From Singapore after 3 years, I returned to the United Kingdom and discharged from the Army.

Dennis Flamson Secretary.