



Major E Summers MBE

Ernie enlisted in R Signals in 1948, when after successfully passing the rigours of 'P' Coy and parachute training he joined 16th Para Bde Sig Sqn in 1948.

Ernie's career took off in 1950, when he left BAOR and headed for Aldershot. There he was promoted Sgt in 1951. He later sailed aboard the Aircraft carrier HMS Triumph when the oil crisis developed. The situation was resolved diplomatically, and the Sqn moved to the Suez Canal Zone, where in due course he was promoted SSgt.

In 1955, Ernie was promoted WO2 (SSM), and in 1956 took part in the ill-fated OP MUSKETEER, the Suez Canal invasion.

On his return to Aldershot he unfortunately contracted Hodgkin's disease, and was given only months to live. Ernie refused to accept this verdict, and carried on normally. Despite his medical condition he was selected in 1958 to be SSM of a newly formed OTU at the School of Signals, Catterick, training National Service Officers.

When that was completed he was posted to Kenya. On return to UK, he was promoted RSM of Princess Louisa's Kensington Regt TA. He was then selected to be RSM of the Signal Wing at RMA Sandhurst, where he was awarded the MBE. Sadly it was around this time that he lost his wife, Audrey, in a tragic accident.

On commissioning he was posted to 11 Sig Regt, Catterick, as the Para Recruiting Officer. He was refused a Regular Commission (presumably on medical grounds), so he transferred to the RAPC, serving as Paymaster with the Ghurkhas in Belize and BAOR. Finally he went to Worthy Down to help re-write Pay Regulations. He retired in 1985 as a Major.

From his service and looking at the above photo, he is a recipient of the MBE, an unknown medal, the GSM (1918) with clasps Near East (Canal Zone), and Jordan, the GSM (1962) with clasp South Arabia, and the LSGC.

On retirement, Ernie took up the post of Paymaster of the TA Association for the South of England. No matter what happened to him, he always took it in his stride and excelled at it. Nothing deterred him.

Ernie died in 2004. He was survived by his second wife, Bette, her sons, Barry and Mark, and their own children, Ernest and Susan.

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