

STANLEY LONGSTER, Pateley Bridge.

P/JX 246401 : LONGSTER Signalman Stanley. Royal Navy.

Enlisted on 18th April, 1941, and reported to HMS King George at Douglas, Isle of Man, to be trained as a signalman. Later posted to the staff of the Commander in Chief, Home Fleet, and the staff of the Flag Office, Malaya, and served in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Indian Oceans; was demobbed in November, 1950.

Having volunteered for regular service in the Royal Navy, in April, 1941, I was posted to the Isle of Man as a boy signalman. Upon completion of extensive training at age 18, I was drafted to Scapa Flow, on the staff of the C in C Home Fleet, Admiral Jack Tovey, in May, 1942. (I would explain that a staff member did not have a permanent ship, but moved wherever the C in C flew his flag, - that ship became a temporary home).

Within that period, May, 1942, to November, 1944, I moved to the Battleship, Duke of York, Rodney and carrier Furious, with the then C in C, Admiral Bruce Frazer. During this time we were engaged in the sinking of the Bismarck (on HMS King George), covered many Russian Convoys, culminating in the destruction of the Scarnhorst, and acted as covering force for the many Fleet Air Arm attacks on the Tirpitz, anchored in the Norwegian fiords. The battleship, Duke of York, bombarded the coast of North Africa, off Bone, during the combined British and American landings.

My posting to the Far East came in April, 1945, and I arrived in Colombo on V.E. Day. I trained in Ceylon as a party for beach landings but, fortunately, the war ended as we sailed from Colombo to Port Swettenham. Being a regular, of course, meant no demob until I was invalided from the service in 1950.

S. Longster. 31st March, 1957.

World War II Star 1939-45.
World War II Star Atlantic.
World War II Star Africa with Clasp.
Defence Medal 1939-45.
War Medal 1939-45.
