

COLONEL GEOFFREY LOUIS COLLARD OBE ERD (S29-30)

He was born on 24 November 1914.

During WW2 he served with the Royal Engineers in Iraq and Iran and reaching the rank of Lt. Colonel and was Mentioned in Dispatches in August 1943. In November 1944 he was posted to Montgomery's 21 Army Group, British Army of the Rhine and appointed Assistant Director Of Transportation, Inland Water transport.

In July 1945 he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and appointed as British Commander on the Rhine. He was responsible for reopening the Rhine for navigation within the British sector. At the age of just 30 he was one of the youngest Staff Colonels in the British Army. Awarded the OBE in Jan 1946 for "*planning with exceptional foresight and technical competence for the quick resumption of Inland Water Transport throughout the whole of Germany*", he remained in Germany till the following year. He joined the Army Emergency Reserve in 1948 and remained an officer for the next 20 years, being awarded in 1953 the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration (ERD).



He was a Director of three companies within the shipping division of Tate & Lyle and Managin Director of their River Thames Lighterage operation. He was also a past President of the Association of Master Lightermen and Barge owners, Master of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames in 1974/75 and a Freeman of the City of London.

He died in 2001.

[My thanks to Bill Collard (S55-58) for the photo of his late father. He tells me that Jessops were reluctant to copy it without the written permission of the photographer – Herr Gerling of Duisburg Germany 1946!!]