

Appreciation. Lt. Col. F. P. Chapman

It was a great shock to hear of the sudden demise of fearless, gentleman, officer and sportsman of the Sri Lanka Army Gemunu Watch Regiment of Diyatalawa Lt. Col. F.P. Chapman. He hailed from a very outstanding Burgher family in Colombo.

He was educated in St. Josephs College, Colombo 10 and he excelled in his studies, sports and college cadeting. Since leaving college, he joined as Cadet Officer in the Ceylon Army. With basic military training at the Ceylon Army Training Academy, Diyatalawa.

He was later sent to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, England. He excelled in his military studies and sports and came back to Ceylon, to be commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Ceylon Army Gemunu Regiment.

He was appointed as Army Training Officer at the Ceylon Army Training Centre, Diyatalawa to train officers and soldiers under Brigadier J.F. Halangoda, who was the Chief Commandant of Ceylon Army Academy and 1/Bn Ceylon Army Gemunu Regiment at Diyatalawa. Being a very efficient officer, gentleman and officer, he rose in his ranks solely due to merit and leadership qualities.

He served as Platoon Commander, Company Commander and Regiment Commander in Ceylon Army Gemunu Regiment.

With his retirement, he was seconded for service in the Ministry of Defence Civil Security Branch as a Director. He established Civil Security Units for the Security of Government civil establishments. He trained officers and guards for private security agencies. I came to know him well as he was one of the outstanding Army Training Officers in my Sri Lanka Army Career since 1971.

Capt. L.B. Lanka Jayaratne.