

HARRIS, CYRIL 'CHUCK'

RANK; SERGEANT, VOLUNTARILY DEMOTED HIMSELF TO MARINE (DRIVER)

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1941? – 1946

SHIPS: NIL

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: D DAY, WALCHEREN

UNITS. 47 COMMANDO RM

Chuck Harris joined the Corps in 1941 (?) He wanted to join the RN but was glad that he was persuaded otherwise. He describes training at Eastney. Then trained as a driver and vehicle mechanic in Training Battalion. To Stranraer on SS Russian Empress. Then to Dalditch; describes conditions.

Volunteered for Commando service. Describes Achnacarry ... drafted to 47 Commando, HQ Troop. Having been temp Sergeant, voluntarily elects to revert to Marine, as a driver to unit 2ic. Reflects on Commando characters (including CO).

Preparations for D Day. Landing at Asnelles. The approach march to Port en Bessin. Assault on Eastern feature. Regrets re death of Troop Commander, Captain Cousins (who resisted his steel helmet advice.) Then describes assault on Western feature; the huge support of the townspeople.

Static warfare round Salanelles. Describes US landing at Omaha beach, and enemy perspective. Preparation for assault on Walcheren. The assault, then attacking MG Nest in Battery. The move into Flushing and enemy surrender. Fear of the RM Commandos expressed by Kriegsmarine.

Regrets at leaving Corps, would have liked to have stayed on.