

BIRDSEYE, IAN

RANK: LIEUTENANT

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1942-1945 (INVALIDED)

SHIPS:

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: WWII, COMBINED SERVICE OPERATIONS FAR EAST, LC(G)
ON DAY, WALCHEREN

UNITS:

Joined 1942, Y Scheme, to Lympstone aged 18, 401 Squad for 7 weeks training. Then Dalditch for field training. Thurlestone for officer training, commissioned 1943, to RM Division as a 2Lt in AA/Atk (?) regiment. To Combined Ops, HMS Westcliffe (*shore establishment*), HMS Turtle, (*shore establishment*) Hamworthy for Landing Craft Gun (LCG) training.

Prep for D Day, gunnery practice. D Day (*June 1944*), targets Courseulles area, and Trout Line (*defence against German attack*) at night. Craft hit mine, sinking, sent home. Walcheren (*Nov 44*): his LCG sunk, he wounded severely. Hospital Ostend, then to UK and discharged/invalided. Reflections on his luck in surviving two sinking's. Civil life, PTSD?