

HOLLOWAY, KEITH

RANK: LIEUTENANT

DECORATIONS:

YEAR OF SERVICE: 1943 – 1946

SHIPS:

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: END OF WW2 IN HOLLAND AND GERMANY

UNITS: 27 BATTALION RM

Keith led 13 Platoon X Company 27 Battalion RM in Holland from February to June 1945; primarily occupying forces, some minor actions, friendly with Dutch citizens.

He signed on aged 17 in April 1943 and joined at Deal in April 1944. Then spent 9 months training, ending at RM Military School, Thurlestone for officer training. In Nov '44 sent to hospital after exercise on Dartmoor, met a VAD Nurse (Irene or Eileen?) who later became his wife.

In January 1945, joined 27 Battalion in Ayrshire, appointed Officer Commanding 13 Platoon and sailed to Ostend in February. Then deployed as occupying forces in various locations, mainly on guard duties with occasional contact with low grade units. Quite involved with Dutch civilians; spent 20th birthday with Dutch family with gin and cake!

In May '45, 27 Bn became part of 4 Can Armoured Division carrying out patrol activity and taking some prisoners. Eventually sent to Wilhelmshaven, took surrender of Telephone Exchange with German force twice the size of his PI!

The Battalion returned to UK in June and disbanded. Holland was then sent as OC Demo Platoon at the Infantry School RM at Bickleigh, married his VAD Nurse, turned down a regular commission and was de-mobbed in October 1946, returning to Oxford University.