

CHURCHILL, PAT

RANK: MARINE

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1942 ? – 1945

SHIPS:

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: D-DAY (LANDING CRAFT), COMMANDO WALCHEREN, ADVANCE INTO GERMANY

UNITS: MNBDO 2, LSTs, ON LOAN TO 4 (ARMY) COMMANDO

Worked in Oxford University Press pre-war. Aged 18, joined and trained Portsmouth, then Deal and Walmer.

Served in MNBDO2 Narberth, Wales. Signals course, then became radio op to Battery Commander, 15 pounder guns. Then trained on Centaur tanks, 95 mm guns, preparation for D Day, concentration area including waterproofing tank. LST across Channel, seasick, landings, penetrated 3 miles inland on 1st day. Main job was very close support of ground troops. After 1 month returned to UK on LST.

Achnacarry for Commando course, but after 2 weeks sent to join 4 (Army) Commando who were short of signallers. This Commando had 2 French troops, and he was signaler (No 18 set) for one. Preparation for Walcheren operation in Belgium: training at Den Haan (similar beaches) Blankenberg, and Breskens from where they sailed to Flushing for their landing. Good description of fighting in town. To Goes, Bergen op Zoom.

Thence to Germany, where Commando disbanded at Recklinghausen. Home, demobilization, returned to factory work (welding).