

LOCKYER, ROYSTON

RANK: CORPORAL

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1942 – 1947

SHIPS: HMS NILE; HMS FORMIDABLE, SS STRATHMORE.

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE, ARTIC CONVEYS, LANDING CRAFT IN BURMA

UNITS: 45th INDIAN UNIT

Served 1942-6 doing a variety of traditional RM ship/shore-based duties. Eventually became LCA Corporal Coxswain training Indian troops and served in Burma at the end of the war. Joined 411 Squad at Eastney on 14 February 1942 aged 17, inspired by recruiting film. Drafted to HMS *Nile* in Alexandria and travelled via Queen Mary. Manned 6" gun on stern but never told where ammunition was stored! Journey continued by train Tunis to Cairo, where Night Club Manager locked rifles in his office while they watched belly dancers!

Duties in HMS *Nile* included distributing messages; 4 hours on, 4 hours off, guarding prisoners and providing firing parties. Crash draft to HMS *Formidable*. Action Stations on board in Y1 AA turret. Duties included ferrying empty bottles ashore and replacing them full.

Payback for cushy life in Mediterranean was escorting Russian convoys. Whilst unloading at Greenock sustained a double fracture of his ankle; spent several weeks in hospital, met wife-to-be, a Wren. Drafted to former Butlins in Brightlingsea for landing craft training before passage to India in SS Strathmore. His detachment unanimously agreed to shave heads so removing headgear for the Sunday church parade temporarily dazzled proceedings!

In India, as Corporal LCA Coxswain, trained Indian troops in amphibious landings, often in frisky surf. Then off to Burma attached to "45th Indian Unit". Had to ask Major General Roberts (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ouvry_Lindfield_Roberts) to stop smoking on boarded his craft going up Irrawaddy. On return trip, remembers chatting to the General "with no hint of rank".

Roy contracted yellow jaundice after the end of the war and was again hospitalized, convalescing in the Himalayas for a while before eventually being demobilized at Eastney with many of his squad mates. He married Marie on 7 April 1947 and his wife died in 2005.