

HOLLAND, THOMAS

RANK: MARINE

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1939(?) - 1946 (?)

SHIPS:

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: NORMANDY & WALCHEREN

UNITS: 41, 47 OR 48 COMMANDO ?

Served as a marine in World War 2 being involved in Normandy and Walcheren operations. Born 1919, educated Bristol Cathedral School. First job in aero engineering then joined RM. Diamond in training, joined Plymouth Division.

Commando training at Achnacarry. Describes a number of deployments: a Polish ship, Wales in case of German threat to Ireland and preparation for Cyprus though this was cancelled.

Describes landing on SWORD Beach during the invasion of Normandy. Clearance of concrete bunker and street clearance. One thousand bomber raid on Caen.

Took part in the Battle of Walcheren. Landed in a Buffalo amphibious vehicle. Worked in the engineering workshops. Recalls the breaches in the dykes caused by RAF 1000-pound bombs and resultant flooding. Nevertheless, came under fire from German guns which could fire inwards therefore could fire from other side of island.

Describes his appreciation of working with fellow Royal Marines. After the war returned to work in aero engineering business.