

Charles Turnbull
Training for D-Day

Then we were taken so far out, the water was quite deep at Rothesay. One had full equipment on and were given the order to jump off the craft into the water and one had to get out the best way that one could. With the water being deep you did have a sou'wester on, and people who didn't like the water didn't take to that very well. Some had to be pushed off, which was one of the duties that I had to perform, whether he liked it or not. And, of course, if anyone couldn't make his way we did have rowing boats rowing around so that they would be pulled aboard. But it was a little bit disconcerting to find out really how many people were afraid of water. But it was something that had to be done because one knew that if we did invade France, which seemed to be the objective, that this would have to be done, and one would have to get out of the water the best way that one could. Another thing was that really we practised landings on the opposite coastline. There again this was done with live ammunition. And one could really bring it to mind. We had two inch mortars on the craft and when the water was quite choppy it was quite disconcerting to find that when one was landing that bombs would fall rather short, that it wasn't easy to gain the right trajectory of the bomb. But there again this sort of thing had to be practised because one knew that if we had to invade these would be the conditions that we would come against.