

Frank Morgan

This is a story of Frank Morgan my Great Grandad; I have taken information from a huge amount collected by his Son-In-Law. Frank was one of 8 brothers who all fought, all but one returned home.

1942 - Frank attempted to join the Navy in Manchester but being only 17 was turned away.

5th Feb 1943 - On his 18th birthday he was signed up and posted to HMS Raleigh for training and became Ordinary Seaman D/JX421464.

May 1943 - Began training to operate landing craft barges in preparation for D-Day.

Dec 1943 - Frank was promoted to Able Seaman and posted to his D-Day unit 10th.

Frank manned Dumb Barges which mean they have no engines but are towed in lines of 6 by a tugboat.

June 1944 – Franks flotilla sailed from Fowley to a holding area off the Isle of Wight

5th June - General Eisenhower delayed D-Day due to the bad weather so Frank remained moored at sea waiting. Later that night they set off for Omaha Beach an American landing area, travelling at only 6 miles an hour. 20 miles out they moored their barges at sea anchor.

5.30am D-Day – Bombardment of enemy shores began, shells flying over Franks head from the battleships behind them while he sat on the ammunition.

8am The barges remained moored, and the crew returned to Plymouth by tugboat to collect more barges fully loaded this time to Utah Beach to re-supply 'Force U'.

Frank helped deliver 28,574 tons of ammunition to Omaha and 18,320 tons to Utah.

After a brief leave home Frank returned to 19th flotilla to ferry supplies and bring back the wounded from the Normandy beaches.

8th May Victory Europe – Frank was in training again.

July 1945 – May 1946 – Frank was posted to Southeast Asia, stationed in Malacca to protect Burma and later to assist Mountbatten to deal with the Japanese troops.

June 1946 - Frank sailed home and left service on the 11th August 1946.

By George Keeble