

9 April 2008

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter the other week with some enclosures, and I apologise for my rather slow response.

From my late husbands records on RN Commandos and 'N' NAN, I have managed to find some notes and photographs, of Tom Turton. Tom appears to have been photographed quite a lot, both from the official angle and from a private source. In fact, the history of 'N' NAN could be written from Tom's photographs, alone.

Anyway, I am enclosing the notes, photographs, and footnotes which go with the pictures you recently sent to me, in the hope that they will answer some questions, but I fear, as usual I may open up further 'cans of worms'.

You are welcome to look at the photographs which are probably of more interest to Griffin, in his quest for wartime knowledge about his Grandfather in 'N' NAN.

I have enclosed two sets of notes, one you may keep, as I am sure the notes may be of help to you, in your quest for knowledge about 'N' NAN, and some of the places, they visited and fought the war in. I am sure though that many stories about what individuals in 'N' NAN were doing at different times, still await to be discovered, but hopefully, before any others of the old group pass away.

I had a telephone chat with Griffin, but I do not have his address or telephone number, so I have prepared an envelope, with postage, but would be most grateful if you could kindly add Griffin's address to the front of the blank envelope, and kindly post off to him, on my behalf.

Please could you kindly let me know sometime, how your searches are progressing, as you may discover, or be able to help me with a few blanks, in my own quest for knowledge about 'N' NAN.

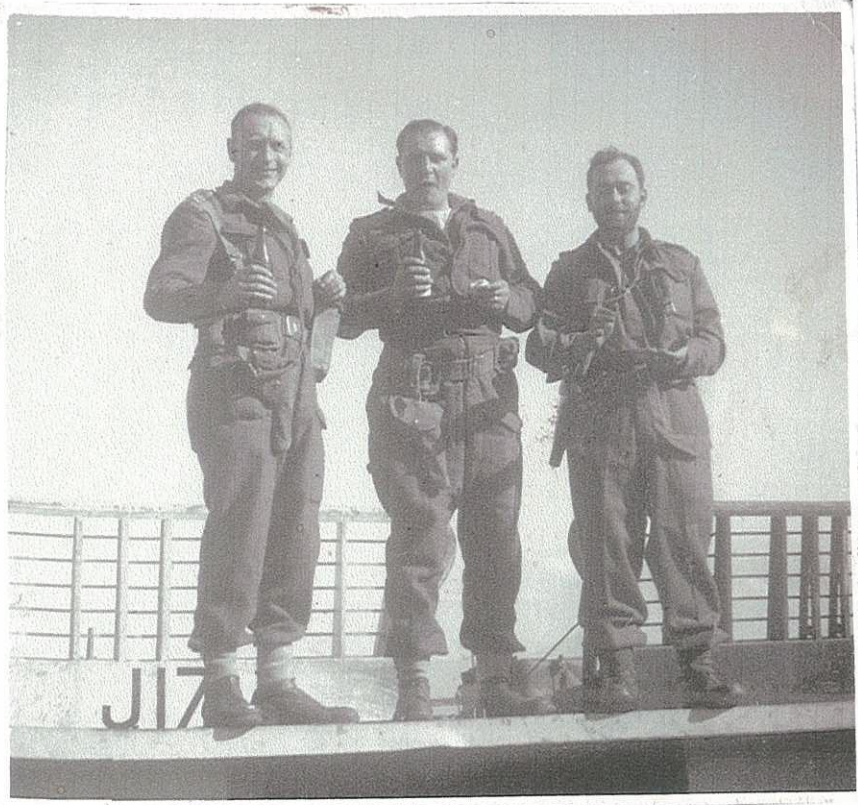
Regards for now.

Leda

**GEORGE 'G' RN BEACH PARTY
LATER RN COMMANDO
JULY/AUGUST 1942 - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1944**

NOTES:

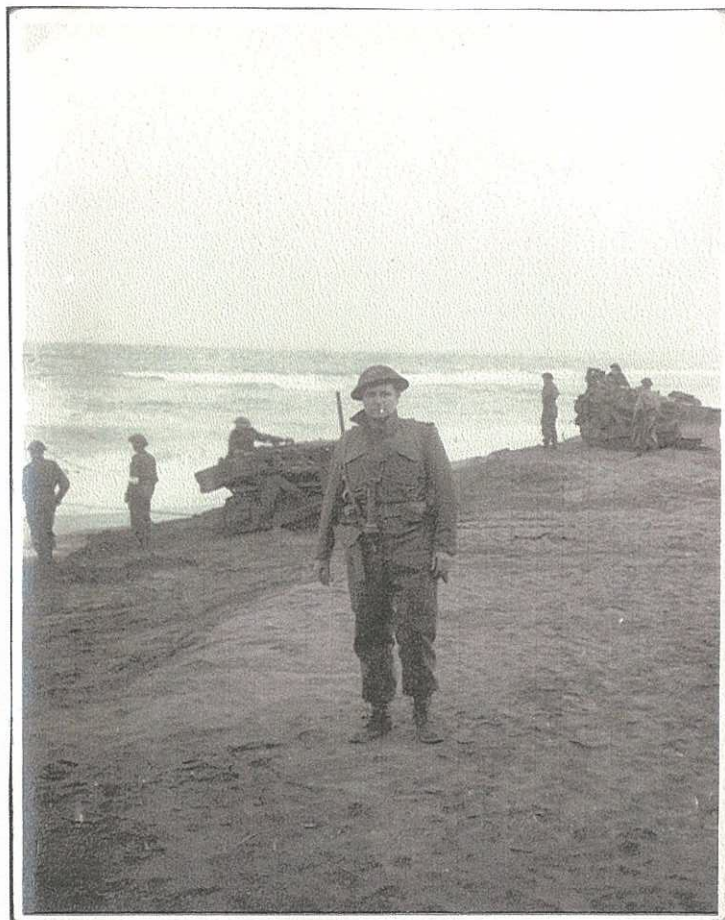
1. GEORGE 'G' Naval Beach Party, was formed at Coulport House and Inverkip House, Scotland, in July/August 1942. They later became, after training at HMS Armadillo, GEORGE 'G' RN Commando. However in the early days GEORGE 'G' Naval Beach Party was split as follows:
Commanding Officer (CO) Lieutenant Commander O C MacDonald RANVR.
Principal Beach Masters:
'G1' - Lieutenant Pilditch RN
'G2' - Lieutenant Redshaw RNVR
'G3' - Lieutenant MacArthur RNVR
Assistant Principal Beach Masters:
'G1' ?
'G2' - Lieutenant Turton
'G3' ?
[SEE FOOTNOTE 1.](#)
2. GEORGE 'G' Naval Beach Party, training in Scotland, September 1942.
3. GEORGE 'G2' Naval Beach Party embarked onboard Marnix Van St Aldegonda for Algeria, Operation 'Torch' October/November 1942.
[SEE PHOTOGRAPH 1.](#)
4. GEORGE 'G2' Naval Beach Party landed in Algeria, the assault being made in the 'Apples' sector on the western side of Algiers, and they served as follows:
Algiers (Douada Marina), Algeria, November 1942.
Bougie, Algeria, November 1942.
El Kseur, Algeria, November 1942.
Djidjelli, Algeria, November 1942.
Philippeville, Algeria, November 1942.
Bone, Algeria, November 1942.
Crossed the border Algeria/Tunisia, November 1942.
Souk Ahras, Tunisia, November 1942.
Tabarka, Tunisia, early December 1942.
[SEE PHOTOGRAPH 2.](#)
5. Returned to Bone, Algeria and spent Christmas day 1942, in the Hotel Transatlantique.
6. Returned to England, 'Black Bull' Whetstone, January 1943.
[SEE PHOTOGRAPH 3.](#)



PHOTOGRAPH 1.

Left to Right - Lieutenant M V (Bill) Redshaw, Lieutenant Tom Turton and Lieutenant M Vanheems.

Photograph taken on a Landing Craft on the Marnix Van St Aldegonda bound for the invasion of Algeria, operation 'Torch' October/November 1942. Bill and Tom were part of GEORGE 'G2' Naval Beach Party, Lieutenant Vanheems was in Command of the Landing Craft. He was not a member of the Naval Beach Party, but seconded for that invasion. He met up with Bill and Tom again at the invasion of Sicily, and the invasion of southern Italy, the following Summer when his Landing Craft was in use again, this time by NAN 'N' Commando.



PHOTOGRAPH 2.

Tom Turton, on the beach, after the invasion of Algeria in early November 1942.

Tom was with GEORGE 'G2' Naval Beach Party.

The beach in question was at Douada Marina, Algeria and the date was 8th or 9th December 1942.