

26th August 1942.

12

32705 Pte. O'Toole, A.

being a member of No. 15 Platoon in C Coy states that he sailed with the others from Southampton at about 1900hrs on the 18th Aug 1942 and sailed out into the Channel to an unknown destination. At about midnight we were told by our Officer Mr. Barott we were to raid a part of the French coast, that it was the real thing. As to exact orders given O'Toole says that he could not safely recount the full duties to be performed by our lads. After this the men practiced getting into the L.C.Ps while still in davits. Men were then given a good meal and a couple of hours rest. At 0240hrs we loaded into the small boats for the last time and they were lowered at approx 0320hrs. We still had 10 miles to go from the mother ship. After some time, at about first light, we hit the beach and then as we started off my ankle was wrenched and I could not go on. I saw our men go up the beach to the sea wall and disappear into a smoke screen. Our landing appeared to be unopposed as I saw no one fall as if hit. My boat then pulled out and stayed off shore. Our boat was dive bombed without incident. We stayed off shore for 6 or 8 hours then moved in to pick up the boys. This was made impossible by Stuka dive bombers and we pulled out and crossed the channel in the L.E.P.

We landed at Newhaven and I went to the C.C.S.

Captain Motzfeldt adds to the above in effect that he met the Naval Officer, Lieut. Van Cleef, in command of this particular L.C.P. who said that Pte. O'Toole conducted himself well under fire and that this latter was exceedingly heavy for some time.

Referring again to Lieut. Van Cleef of the Navy, Capt. Motzfeldt reports that this Officer says our men with a few exceptions succeeded in crossing the beach to the shelter of the cliff.