

docks and sunk on the 23rd. I remember seeing blood and guts all over the dock after the raid of the 21st. Several days later we are assigned the unpleasant task of recovering bodies from the Med. A British troopship was bombed and lost several soldiers. The bodies re-floated to surface several days later and we were to recover the Bodies. We had no body bags so we covered them with our blankets. After a little while the stench was almost unbearable.

6 Sept 1943--We return to Termini Sicily. We assist other landing craft off the beaches. They are loading for the Invasion of Italy. We do not make D-day at Salerno 5 October 1943 Loaded with troops and equipment we land at Salerno Italy.

15 October 1943--Depart Salerno area bound for Naples. On the way we are bombed by a lone German aircraft. Near miss, no damage to any LCTs in convoy. This night we lay over at the Isle of Capri.

16 October 1943--Arrive Naples Harbor. The next several days are spent off loading larger ships outside the harbor. The larger ships did not come into the harbor We offloaded them while tied alongside. It was unsafe for the large cargo ships to tie up in the harbor.

20 October 1943--Departed Naples, bound for Ferryville Tunisia via Palermo .

10 Nov, 1943--underway for Oran Algeria.

22 Nov. 1943--Lifted aboard USS LST-331.

1 Dec. 1943--Depart Oran headed for the U.K.

18 Dec. 1943--Off-load from LST-331 at Milford Haven Wales. For the next few months we train Army troops in practice landings at beaches of Southern England.

6 June 1944--D-Day Normandy (Omaha Beach) France. We are a part of the fire support group. We have four 105mm Howitzers aboard. We bombard the Fox Green area of the beach at H-30. After our run we withdraw back to sea and are to land the Howitzers at H+ 90. It was a long and stressful day. On our last trip to the Beach we picked up wounded troops At a given time on D-day all landing craft had to anchor for the night. Any movement after this specific time you risked the danger from our destroyers. They had orders to shoot any moving targets. At approximately 11.30 pm we were fired on from enemy gun emplacements on the Beach. We started to up anchor. The winch was too slow for the skipper and he gave the order to cut the cable. About the time we cut the cable two destroyers placed themselves between us and the fire from the beach. The destroyers silenced the gun batteries. We were not hit, however we had lost our anchor and needless to say the wounded aboard were severely upset.

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LCTs in England preparing for the Normandy invasion. An officer stands next to the enlarged pilot house of LCT-213 in top center of photo.