

Alfred Barlow 1921 – 2019

British Army



Alfred aged 21



Alfred aged 95



Half-track vehicle in action



Reconnaissance Corps Cap Badge

Alfred landed on Sword Beach close to the River Orne on 6 June 1944 with the 3rd Reconnaissance (RECCE) Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. When asked by pupils on his school visits if he ever felt afraid, Alfred referred to the time when he was on the Tank Landing Craft (TLC) in the hold of the boat, waiting for it to dock on the beach. It was dark and Alfred did not know what to expect – in a way it was fear of the unknown. Then the TLC landed on the beach, the front of the Craft opened up and light flooded in. Alfred could see hundreds of other craft and thousands of troops and vehicles – and then training kicked in and he forgot his fear. He got on with the job of driving the Half-Track vehicle he was in charge of up the long, gently sloping beach (Sword Beach) and onto the pier head.