

Transcript of Len Perry Video Clip

Then we came back to Portland and we picked up a war correspondent. He was from Reuters – Reuters correspondent. His name was Desmond Tighe and he was an official war correspondent. Now this really worried us cos these lads, these war correspondents, real, ‘I’m gonna get me a jack-business’, you know, and we – we didn’t fancy that cos he was gonna take us with him but we didn’t want to go. Anyway, he was onboard and we saw the invasion. We went to Gold Beach and we – that looked fairly calm from where we were we never went within several hundred yards of, you know. We were back when the assault crafts were – they used to – the assault craft they loaded from much bigger ships, you know. Much bigger landing craft, they loaded then and then the smaller assault craft went in. But they seemed to go in, there was gunfire and smoke knocking about but we didn’t see too much of it. But then he, Desmond Tighe, the advent had gone pretty well apparently and there were five beaches and he wanted to see each one. So he – we took him first of all to the other two British ones and then we went to Omaha and that had gone wrong, absolutely –. After Omaha, we – he wanted to see Utah Beach and Utah Beach had gone well so we didn’t see anyone there. It was clear. They’d moved inland. Then he wanted – then he had to send his communicate back to United News or something or other. But he tried and there was so much – so much flack and that going on so much – there were so many aircraft in the air. There was a lot of firing going on that in no way could he get his radio through so he approached the skipper and he said, ‘Can we get back?’, and he said, ‘Yes, I’ll take you back to Portsmouth’. So – and this was the most strange – most strange thing ever happened to us because we dashed back to Portsmouth and I remember going along south seafront and kiddies were playing, it wasn’t a bad day, kiddies were playing in the beach as we went along the south seafront to go into Portsmouth Harbour and we’d left – we’d left a hell.