



## **Gibraltar: Challenge, Change & Continuity**

The Friends of Gibraltar Oral History Project (1930 to 1970)

**Jewell, NLA @ Bill + HMS Seraph (Ser 226 / IWM 012278R01-05x)**

### Object description

British officer commanded submarine HMS Seraph during landing of Generals Mark Clark and Lemnitzer in North Africa prior to Operation Torch, 1942; rescued General Henri Giraud from south of France, 11/1943; involved in Allied Operation Mincemeat the 'Man Who Never Was' deception plans in Mediterranean, 7/1943

### Content description

REEL 1 Background in Seychelles, Kenya and GB, 1913-1932: family; education. Enlistment and period with Royal Navy, 1932- 1939: pattern of early career; background for joining Submarine Service. Period as third officer aboard HMS Osiris in Mediterranean, 1939: sailing for Mediterranean, 9/1939; reaction of submarine captain to declaration of Second World War; knowledge of U-boat prior to 1939. Period as first lieutenant with HMS Otway in English Channel and GB, 1940: exercising with destroyers on anti-submarine; duties patrolling off Dunkirk, 5/1940; boarding party to French submarine Surcouf at Devonport, summer 1940. Period as first lieutenant with HMS Truant in Atlantic and Mediterranean, 1940-1941: joining ship, 12/1940; release of British and Norwegian POWs from German ships in Bay of Biscay, 1/1941; operations off west coast of Italy, early 1941. REEL 2 Continues: medical problems with his back; German mining of Suez Canal, summer 1941; voyage from Egypt to GB, 1941. Period as submarine captain of L27 in GB and Atlantic, 1941-1942: taking command, late 1941; abortive attack on U-boat; damage sustained on voyage across Atlantic; leaving submarine, early 1942. Recollections of operations as submarine captain of HMS Seraph in Atlantic and Mediterranean, 1942-1943: first patrol off North Cape, 6/1942; accidental attack on submarine by RAF in Bay of Biscay, summer 1942; transporting Combined Operations Party group to map landing beaches for Operation Torch; landing Generals Mark Clark and Lemnitzer on North African coast; rescuing General Henri Giraud from south of France, 11/1942. REEL 3 Continues: award of US medal for his role in operation; taking US rangers to survey Lampedusa Island, 12/1942; collision with U-boat off Cape Bon; torpedo attack on U- boat, 12/1942; Operation Mincemeat planting of 'The Man Who Never Was' off Andalucian coast, spring

1943; briefing for Sicily invasion and impression of General George Patton; marking of US beaches for Sicilian landings, 7/1943; picking up US soldiers from sea during Sicilian landings. REEL 4 Continues: attacks on Axis shipping off Italy, 7/1943; landing commandos at Genoa; under depth charging off Corsica; sinking of Axis landing craft off Italy, summer 1943; operations in Eastern Mediterranean; torpedoing of Axis seaplane in Greek Island, autumn 1943; abortive plan to send submarine into Black Sea, late 1943; lecture tour in USA after leaving submarine, early 1944.

**Courtesy IWM March 2014**  
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