



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

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

**Smith, Sydney Thomas (Ser 207 / IWM 014621R02)**

### Object description

British civilian in Scarborough, GB, 1914-1918; captain served with Merchant Navy aboard Lackenby in Atlantic, 1939-1940, served aboard Empire Trent in Atlantic and Mediterranean, 1941-1944; served aboard Fort Finlay during Normandy landings, in Mediterranean and Far East, 1944-1945

### Content description

REEL 1 Background in Scarborough, 1907-1914: family; education. Recollections of period as schoolboy living in Scarborough, 1914-1918: outbreak of First World War, 4/8/1914; German bombardment of town, 16/12/1914; second bombardment of town by German submarine, 4/1917; British troops training in town; Armistice Day celebrations, 1918; appearances of German Zeppelins over town. Recollections of period as captain of Lackenby in Atlantic, 1939-1940: declaration of Second World War, 3/9/1939; advantages of not sailing in convoys; picking up Norwegian survivors, late 1940. Recollections of period as captain of Empire Trent in Atlantic and Mediterranean, 1941-1944: initial Canadian voyages. REEL 2 Continues: pro-German attitude of Spanish officials at Huelva; duel with Focke Wulf Condor; smuggling escaped Allied POWs out of Huelva to Gibraltar. Recollections of operations as captain of Fort Finlay during Normandy landings and in Mediterranean, 1944: taking over ship for special operations in Sunderland, 1944; sailing from Firth of Forth to River Thames, prior to D-Day; loading up at Tilbury; crossing Channel to Arromanches; HMS Warspite's narrow escape from German Air Force bombing. Aspects of operations as captain aboard Empire Trent in Mediterranean, 1942: role during landings at Algiers; carrying eucalyptus logs from Lisbon to Algiers, 11/1942. Aspects of period as captain with Fort Finlay in Mediterranean, 1944: following minesweeper through minefield into Ancona.

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