

sent to France from the training they received. After training they were to be granted a short leave before going to combat. The gunners were sent on leave first. Russ's turn hadn't come up yet for leave as he was a bombardier. There were only a handful of the trained personnel left and Russ and the remaining others who didn't get leave were sent to France. Russ recalls they took anybody they could find, cooks, batmen etc.

Early in the morning, before the raid on Dieppe, when the canteen people gave them cigarettes and chocolate bars they realized where they were going. Russ's friend Jimmy Young who had joined the army at the same time as Russ, and who was also held back from leave, cautioned Russ before the raid on Dieppe "this is the real thing and be careful now" .

Their attempt to raid Dieppe was disastrous. There was a whistle on the barge landing craft and if it blew they had to try to get back to the ship. Russ got in the water and there were barricades and barbed wire all through the water and that is one reason why they lost so many men. Russ and Jimmy made it back on the barge. About 40 of them used bren guns to shoot at the enemy planes because in Russ's words "they were knocking our boys all to pieces on the beach". The beach was just a short beach, with a big high cliff. The men couldn't get up the cliff. When it was all over there were over 1900 taken prisoner and over 900 killed.

Russ said when they got back to England their favourite expression was "they were given a 6 foot ladder to go up a 25 foot cliff". In Russ's words, "That was the end of that."

The 2<sup>nd</sup> trip over to Dieppe was around D Day, Russ is not sure of the exact date. Jimmy was with Russ and said "Russ we are going over to get our ass kicked again". It was totally different as the first time they had no back up but on D Day the beach and cliff were levelled by the