



## Frank Grist (39-41)

Frank Grist left Conway in 1941 and joined HMS *King Alfred* as a midshipman, RNR. After three months' basic instruction in Gunnery, Signals and Navigation, he joined HMS *London* in August 1941, in the Home Fleet at Scapa where he carried out the duties of a midshipman of the watch at sea. The ship was then working on the Denmark Strait Patrol from Iceland. In October, Frank was sent temporarily to HMS *Verdum* on the East Coast Convoy route to Sheerness. In addition to Officer of the Watch, he was coxwain of the seaboat which was used to pick up survivors from the all too frequent convoy casualties. In January 1942 he rejoined HMS *London* in the Home Fleet, before he asked to be sent back to destroyers. He was told he would be considered, if he passed the RN Midshipman's exams, which he did in July 1942.

In September he was appointed to HMS *Echo*, a member of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla, screening the Home Fleet in the Arctic and escorting convoys to Russia. In January 1943, his ship was sent to Gibraltar and then to Alexandria, from where the ship left for the invasion of Sicily. HMS *Echo* became a bombardment support ship and whilst returning from an operation, sank an Italian U-Boat off Syracuse. In September, Frank was promoted to acting sub-lieutenant. His ship returned to Alexandria, preparing to operate in the Aegean in support of the Army endeavouring to hold Cos and Leros. After a few narrow escapes, he saw the campaign out and had the distinction of being the last ship into Leros before it fell to the Germans. HMS *Echo* was transferred to the Greek Government in February 1944 and Frank was transferred to HMS *Faulknor*. After a short refit in Gibraltar, *Faulknor* returned home in April in time to prepare for the invasion of Europe.

On the morning of 6th June 1944, HMS *Faulknor* was in the Juno sector of the Normandy Beaches bombardment prior to the initial landings. At H Hour +3, HMS *Faulknor* returned to Portsmouth to embark Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery and his staff, then returned to Juno. When the position in Normandy became established, HMS *Faulknor* was transferred to the Southern Approaches where she worked as convoy escort. Frank remained until June 1945 when he paid off.

After the war, Frank joined HMS *Defiance* for a torpedo control course and later an Asdic control course in HMS *Osprey* and HMS *Nimrod*.

## John L Rigby (42-44)

John joined Conway after his education at the well known Liverpool Institute. From Conway, he was accepted into the Liverpool Pilot Service and after serving the usual seven years' apprenticeship, became a career Pilot in Liverpool until his retirement in 1988. He became Pilot of choice for the United States Line and United Arab Line. John devoted his leisure time to his beloved family, spending many happy hours maintaining his house and his beautiful garden. He is survived by his wife Pam, a son, two daughters and ten grandchildren.