

## Nan Commando, HMS Saunders, Exercise Shalufa

By Griffin Turton

Nan RN Beach Commando carried out a number of exercises at [HMS Saunders](#), Kabrit (Kasferit) during November 1943, including Exercise Bangalore 11 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, Exercise Duchess on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November and Exercise Shallufa on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November. Nan Commando was being prepared for Operation 'Accolade', the capture of the island of Rhodes. However in December 1943 they were hurriedly added to Operation 'Shingle' the landings at Anzio. These pictures are from Exercise Shallufa.

In the picture below, the front two 'assault troops' with their backs to the camera are Lt Thomas Turton RNVR (Beach Master N3) on the left and Lt Alec Varley RNVR (Assistant Beach Master N2) on the right. They are sat in the Landing Craft Assault (LCA) 'Grey Dawn', note the 'speaker' at the front, part of the loud halo system used by the Beach Masters.



The following picture was used in the article [“The 'Sea Devils' Men Of Sea, They Shot, Fought And Marched On Land”](#) which was published in Eight Army News No4 Vol 7 Monday May 14<sup>th</sup> 1945.

Front centre Lt Thomas Turton RNVR, with Thomson Sub Machine Gun, Binoculars and Map Case.





“Down ramp out troops”, Lt Alec Varley RNVR centre hits the beach!



Below Lt Alec Varley RNVR in his 'command post', using the loud halo system.



Action shots! Sub Lt Brian Wallace is on the right and note the RN Commando on the right is holding a [9mm Lanchester Sub Machine Gun](#).



And in the following photograph, from left to right AB 'Geordie' Sowden, Sub Lt Brian Wallace and AB Couch with the 9mm Lanchester Sub Machine Gun.





Lt Thomas Turton RNVR with Thomson Sub Machine Gun, Pistol, Binoculars and Compass.

