

## Jackie Thomson Seaman Gunner

*Thanks to Jackie's son David for providing the following information*

Jackie was involved in transporting US Rangers across the English Channel during the D-Day landings in June 1944. He made more than one crossing. His original landing craft was too badly damaged by enemy fire so he and other able bodied men were transferred to another landing craft to repeat their journey.

This landing craft was assessed as beyond repair on its return to Plymouth and he was re assigned.

He was sent to Gibraltar where he joined the Cruiser HMS Courageous bound for the Far East, where he joined the aircraft carrier HMS Formidable.

HMS Formidable was engaged, alongside the American Pacific Fleet in sea battles against the Japanese from April 1945.

He was a mid-ship gunner at flight deck level with his head and shoulders exposed. When the ship was attacked by Japanese kamikaze pilots, debris rained down on this area. In one such attack a mate was killed and several others injured. Jackie and another mate carried the injured down to the sickbay and then returned to their posts. They were both 'mentioned in despatches' for their bravery.

Jackie survived his war experiences but rarely talked about them.

In 1948 he married his sweetheart Bunty.

*John Drysdale Scott Thomson married Jessie Duncan McIntosh in 1948. (Anwoth Parish Register)*



Jackie and Bunty lived at Riverbank where they raised 6 children. Jackie worked in the forestry but also as a barman at the Murray Arms Hotel.

