

## THE FAMILY HISTORY GROUP COMMEMORATE VE DAY 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 - 8th May 2020

From some of our group who wish to say thank you in memory of those who served during WW2 both at home and abroad. You might say they were the key workers of the day.



Bev's father George Tummon, pictured here on the right with some of his fellow servicemen, served with the York & Lancaster Regiment. He was then aged about 28. She remembers that he never liked to talk about his experience of the war just as so many other post war veterans like him.

Her stepfather, Ron Smedley, who also survived the war, served as a dispatch rider. Sadly he passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1995 on the very day of the VE Day 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



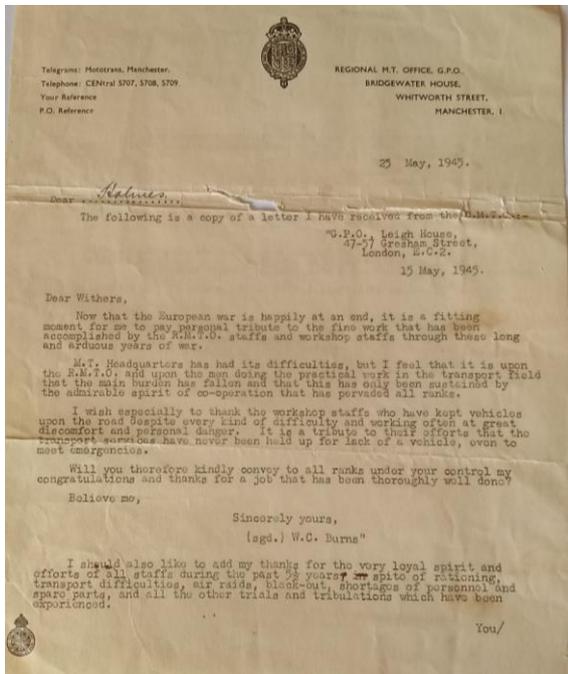
This handsome young man was Bernard Sherlock. The youngest brother of Sandra's Dad and the only one to join the army. He was a Fusilier in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bttn of the Royal Inniskillin Fusiliers. He died at the Battle of Myitakka, Burma (Myanmar) on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1943, aged just 23 and is remembered with Honour at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial at Rangoon in Burma

Some of the war time papers from Pam's Grandparents.

Ronald Holmes was Mechanic in Charge at the Buxton Workshop of the Regional Motor Transport Office, GPO during and after the war. He served with the Home Guard from 1939-Dec 1944. It's not known why he didn't continue until the war end except that he



then had something to do with the Customs & Excise that had moved into the GPO buildings. When a child I thought he had become a spy! Hilda, my Gran, wouldn't allow him to bring the pistol he had been issued with into the house. I wonder where he kept it and what happened to it.



The letter my Grandpa received a few days after VE Day 1945 from GPO Headquarters thanking all staff "who have kept vehicles upon the road despite every kind of difficulty and working at great discomfort and personal danger....."

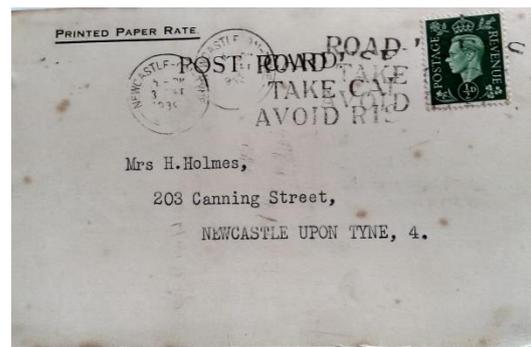
Regional Office adds "thanks to the very loyal spirit and efforts of all staff during the past 5½ years in spite of rationing, transport difficulties, air raids, black-out, shortages of personnel and spare parts and all the other trials and tribulations which have been experienced....."

Gran played her part too by volunteering as a First Aider for the Air Raid Precautions Scheme whilst still living in Newcastle upon Tyne at the beginning of the war and again working in the canteen of the Evacuee Social Centre for the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence when she rejoined Grandpa in Buxton

A postcard invitation calling Gran to a meeting of the Air Raid Precautions Scheme dated 2 Sep 1939. Note the stamped message

TAKE CARE AVOID RISK

Do you think there are any modern day 2020 comparisons to be made here?





This lovely photo of a very young man is Julie's Dad John (Jack) Higginbottom who was drafted into the army aged 18 in 1944. He also served with the York and Lancaster Regiment and thankfully survived the war and conscription.

Julie still has the many letters that he lovingly wrote to his mother, her Granny, as a permanent reminder of those worrying times.

A record of the arduous training that he and all army personnel had to endure to make sure that they were ready and properly equipped to deal with the enemy.

**S. P. SHEET 121**  
**BARBAROUSNESS OF TRAINING.**

Courses and Schools, Specialist Qualifications, Showing result. Date. of 1

Examined C.P.P. 1944  
 Completed Primary Training 11/10/44  
 B.I.T. Passed less test 7 7/10/44  
 Completed P.I.I. 8/10/44  
 Completed M.I.D. 8/11/44

WAR COURSE	Qualification	Date
WEAPON	SCORE	10. SHOT
RIFLE INST.	76	
QUAL	40	2nd
L.H.G. INST.	40	
QUAL	120	2nd

3. Fired 2" Mortar 7-11-44  
 1. Fired 2" Mortar 4 E 11-11-44  
 2. Fired practice PIAT 12-11-44  
 3. Fired 3" 76 Cannon 15-11-44  
 Completed C.P.P. Training 27-2-45

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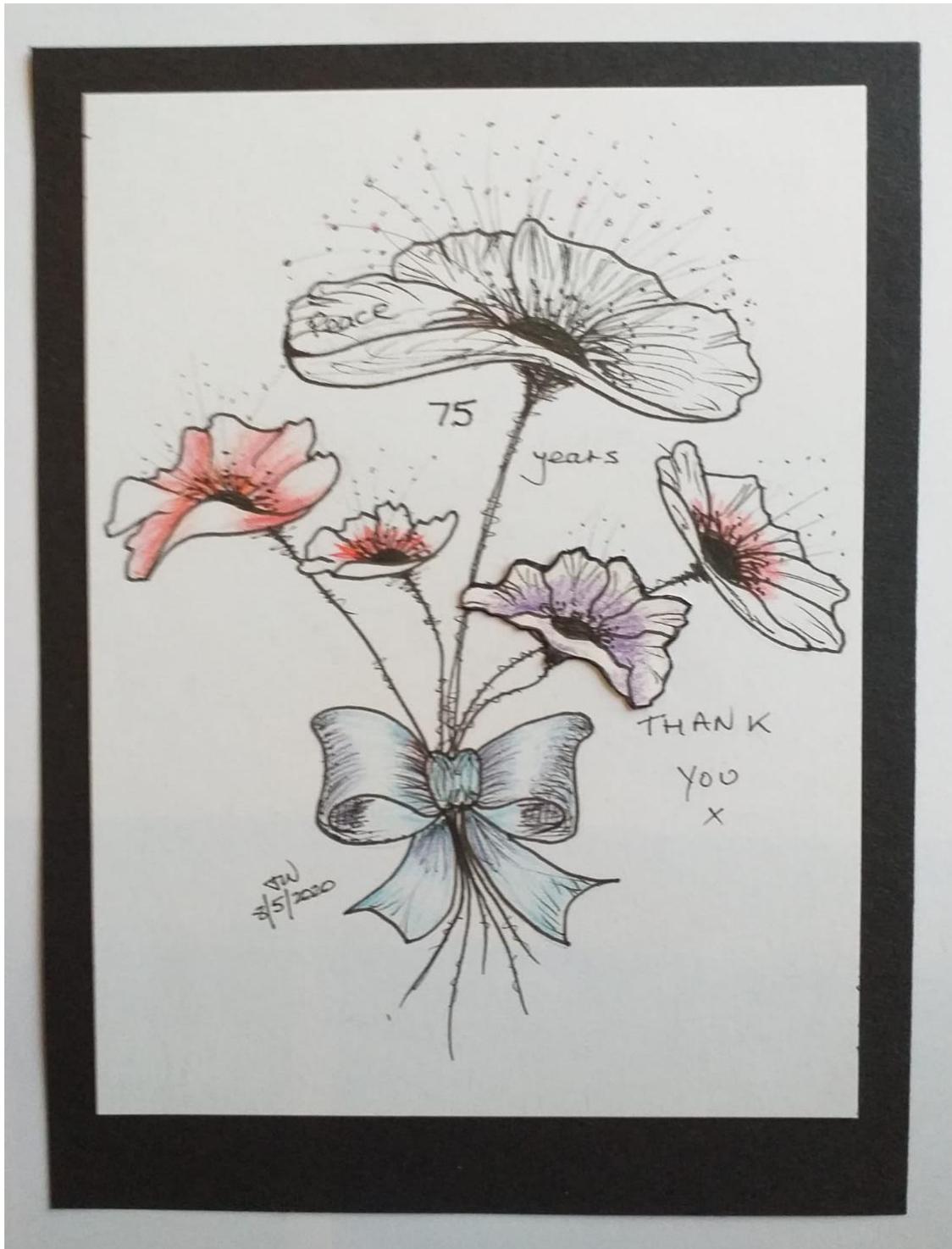
**THE YORK & LANCASTER REGIMENT.**  
 Completed Res. Div. Trg. 10.4.45 -  
 including :-

	Initial of Offr.	Date
Battle Drill Training		26.1.45
Mines Training		26.1.45
Company & Platoon Attack Live Firing		9.2.45
Six Day Exercise		10.2.45
Zin. Mortar & PIAT Firing		22.1.45
10 miles in 2 hours		2.2.45
Marched 30 miles in day		7.1.45
Marched 70 miles in 6 days		10.2.45
Snap shooting		22.1.45
River crossing		

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 Courses and Schools.

Finally in a tribute to all those men & women (not forgetting the animals who also served) who came together in all the services, both military and in local communities, a huge

THANK YOU



Card made by Julie.