



## **Gibraltar: Challenge, Change & Continuity**

The Friends of Gibraltar Oral History Project (1930 to 1970)

### **Burge, Reginald (Ser 209 / IWM 020810R01-02)**

British private served with 4th Bn Devonshire Regt in GB and Gibraltar, 1940-1943; served as driver with 2nd Bn Devonshire Regt in GB and Normandy, 1943-6/1944

#### Content description

REEL 1 Background in Bath and Bristol, 1919-1939: family; education. Enlistment and training with Devonshire Regt in GB, 1940: enlistment, 1/1940; basic training at Paignton. Recollections of period with 4th Bn Devonshire Regt in Gibraltar, 1940-1943: coastal defence duties at Eastbourne prior to embarking for Gibraltar, 1940; inshore patrols searching for Italian submarines; visit to pick up soldier who was absent without leave; reasons for volunteering for special duties; voyage in submarine on supply run to Malta; capture of Italian midget submariners; character of accommodation, water and rations; border duties; Spanish work force; smuggling on border; Italian Air Force attacks. REEL 2 Continues: character of tunnels; return to GB, 1943. Period with 2nd Bn Devonshire Regt in GB, 1943-1944: under canvas in torrential rain at Beaulieu; practising with Bren gun carriers; in secure camp in Hampshire; embarkation procedure at Southampton, 6/1944. Recollections of operations as driver with 2nd Bn Devonshire Regt in Normandy, 6/6/1944-12/6/1944: mistaken landing on Juno Beach, D-Day, 6/6/1944; loss of his carrier on mine, 6/6/1944; peaceful nature of Bayeux, 6/1944; aid given to US rangers and 47 Commandos at Port-en-Bessin; how he was blown up by German tank at Tilly-sur-Mer, 12/6/1944; using Bren gun in action; attitude of Canadian officer, 6/6/1944; load carried on Bren gun carrier; rank he held. REEL 3 Continues: Hospitalisation for wounds in GB, 1944. Conversion of pension to lump sum. Attitude to serving with Devonshire Regt in Second World War. Question of effects of military service.

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