



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

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

### **Elington, Paul (Ser 214 /IWM 023174R03)**

British NCO served with North Riding Fortress Coy, Royal Engineers, South Gare, GB, 1939-1940; served with 267 Bty, 511th Coast Regt, Royal Artillery at Heugh Bty, Hartlepool, 1940-1942; served with 3rd Regt, Coast Regt, RA, Gibraltar, 1942-1944; served with RA in Oran and Austria, 1944-1945; served with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regt in Greece, 1946

#### Content description

REEL 1 Recollections of background in Redcar, 1920-1939: family background and social circumstances; boarding school education; work as articled accountant, 1938-1939; background to enlistment as sapper into Royal Engineers at Redcar, 13/9/1939. Recollections of period with North Riding Fortress Coy, Royal Engineers, South Gare, 1939-1940: initial lack of uniform; drill; role on coastal defence searchlights; kitting out; relationship with instructors; conditions of service; relationship with conscript drafts and question of stealing; relationship with instructors; kitchen fatigues; canteen. REEL 2 Continues: nature and operation of searchlights; disbandment of unit and transfer to Royal Artillery; visits home; issue of battledress uniform; question of German air raids. Recollections of period with 267 Bty, 511th Coast Regt, RA at Heugh Battery, Hartlepool, 1940-1942: duties on promotion to lance corporal on searchlights; training; relationship with ORs; selection for officers' training. Period at Officer Cadet Training Unit, Coast Artillery, RA at Plymouth, 1942: nature of training; 6" gun drill; relationship with instructors. Periods as officer on searchlights with coastal batteries at Sunderland and Whitley Bay, 1942: lack of role. REEL 3 Continues: question of boredom; billets. Recollections of period as searchlight officers with 3rd Regt, Coast Artillery, RA, Gibraltar, 1942-1944: role as armament officer during voyage out; reactions to posting; first impressions; question of blackout; independent role commanding searchlights; draft of African troops to unit; apes; relationship with Gibraltar civilians; role in command room in Rock Fortress; nature of Rock Fortress; ceremony of keys; relationship with Spanish civilians and visit to Spain; question of VD problem. Period training on 25pdrs with Field Artillery Regt, RA at Les Andalouse,

Oran, ca 1944-1945. REEL 4 Continues: absence of active service. Period with Field Regt RA in Willach, Austria, 1945: commanding platoon guarding German POWs on forestry working party; black market activities; patrols in area of Yugoslavian border including story of arrest by Yugoslavian Communist authorities and concealment of status of Yugoslavian interpreter; return home on LIAP, 12/1945. Period with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regt in Noussa, Greece, 1946: background to non-fraternisation with Greek civilian females; patrols. Return to GB and demobilisation, 5/1946. Review of Territorial Army Service with Royal Artillery and Royal Corps of Transport, 1952-1965.

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