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2126376 Sapper T Bath.

The following was sent to the REA BD Branch by T Bath and held in their archives.

2 Bomb Disposal Company, 166 Bomb Disposal Section.

Service from 21 October 1940 to 13 August 1946.

After training I was sent to Sheffield where I saw action during the blitz.

Afterwards we were moved around the country to various towns, including Tharmer, Acton Bassett, Wantage, Burton on Sea, New Milton. Then we moved to Wales, North and South including Anglesey, Wrexham, and Swansea.

From there we were on the East Coast, Saxmundham, Peterborough.

We were then split up and re-grouped.

I joined 6 BD Section in New Milton and found that I was being trained as a frog diver attached to the Navy. I did my training in Southampton Docks, Westward Ho and Ilfracombe, after our training we moved back to New Milton and then Liverpool, where we embarked on HMS Cheshire and were sent to India, Burma and Singapore.

I came home with 31 Group from Singapore on HMS Carthage.

We lost 5 of our section on a bomb in North Wales, Sgt Batch, Cpl Taylor, Spr Owen, Driver Holt and L/Cpl Henley.

We also lost 32 men lifting our own mines from St Bredes Major to Pembroke and also quite a number on the East Anglian Coast.

I remember a Sgt Dewhurst.

13008741 Company Sergeant Major Laurie Aubrey Otto Bushell.

The following was taken from a letter sent by John Bushell of his father's service, to the REA BD Branch in 1997 and held in their archives.

15, 25 Bomb Disposal Company and 851 BD Quarrying Company.

Date of Birth 12 July 1903.

Enlisted in the London Regiment as a boy on 7 November 1917.

Posted to 6 Battalion Coy of London Rifles 19 November 1917.

Posted to London Regiment Reserve on 20 November 1917.

Discharged (underage 15 years) on 22 February 1918.

Re -enlisted into Guards Machine Gun Regiment on a short service engagement and posted to 5 Battalion as a D/Boy on 8 October 1918. (Little known Regiment, known as 6 Regt of Footguards, formed in 1917 from machine gun section of remainder of Guards and Household Cavalry, disbanded in 1921.

Posted to 4 Battalion on 6 May 1919.

Discharged: Surplus to Military Requirements on 24 March 1920.

Re-enlisted into the Green Howards on a short service engagement at Richmond and posted to Depot as a Private on 1 November 1920.

Posted to 2 Battalion on 24 June 1921.

Appointed to Lance Corporal per RHQ Green Howards in Madras, India. 1 August 1921.

Relinquished appointment on 8 November 1921.

Posted to 3 Battalion on 1 May 1922.

Posted to 2 Battalion on 22 November 1923.

Passed Trade Test as a Painter and Decorator Class III Group C 12 March 1925.

Posted to 1 Battalion on 14 January 1926

Passed Trade Test Carpenter and Joiner Class II on 4 March 1926.

Transferred to Reserve 2 March 1928.

Discharged on termination of engagement on 31 October 1932.

(Additional information for 1 November 1920 to 31 October 1932. Also in India for an indetermined period 1921 to ?)

Re-enlisted into the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps, embodied Territorial Army and posted to 1 Centre, (volunteered October 1939, called up 5 March 1940).

Appointed Lance Corporal on 25 March 1940.

Appointed Acting Sergeant 2 April 1940.

Posted to 71 Company 15 April 1940, (Norway 15 April 1940 to 3 May 1940 Broken ribs, pierced lung).

Transferred to the Royal Engineers and posted to 851 Bomb Disposal Quarrying Company on 18 October 1940.

Posted to 25 Bomb Disposal Company on 1 January 1941. (Formed at Blackheath SE then stationed at Well Hall, Eltham SE).

Granted Acting Rank of Warrant Officer Class II Company Sergeant Major on 17 January 1941

Granted War Substantive rank of WO II on 14 January 1941.

Posted to 15 Bomb Disposal Company on 30 June 1942 at Mill Hill, (Algiers- Op Torch 8 November 1942)

Posted to 878 Artisan Works Company on 20 February 1945. (At this time he was suffering from chest trouble caused by injury in Norway. His son thinks this 878 posting was in the way of a cushy billet. Although he served his full term and was discharged sick, (not what his service record says) he was suffering from emphysema AND soon after demob was granted, first 60% war disability pension then having died two days before was notified of 100% WD Pension

Redesignated 878 Co-operator Artisan Works Company on 1 March 1945.

Released to Reserve on 17 November 1945.

Discharged cause : Attained the age of 45 no further liability for recall.

Service with colours 7 November 1917 to 22 February 1918 and 8 October 1918 to 1 March 1928 also 5 March 1940 to 16 November 1945.

Overseas Service India, China (Shanghai Civil War) 28 January 1927 to 14 February 1928.

North Western Expeditionary Force (Norway) 15 April 1940 to 3 April 1940.

North Africa (Sicily and Africa).

Medals Issued 1939/45 Star, African Star, with 1 Clasp, Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939/45.

His son says that his father attended BD Course at Melksham which was unusual in late 1940, as this was normally just for Commissioned Officers.

Also that the BD Course in North Africa he believes to have been on British and American Fuzes as technical information had been withheld for security reasons, the result being to many friendly casualties among BD personnel.