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The Paratrooper

Last updated: 24 November 2005

Doug Simmons is the Chairman of Montgomeryshire Paratroop Regiment. Here, he relates his career in the regiment founded during World War Two to carry out daring raids behind enemy lines.



By Doug Simmons from Welshpool

"My name is Doug Simmons. I originate from Buckinghamshire and I started my army career in 1942 when I was 18. I joined the Oxford and Bucks (being local) and in 1943, I volunteered for the Parachute Regiment which was just being formed.

I went to Hardwicke near Chesterfield which is where we did our ground training and then on to Ringway, Manchester, where we did eight parachute jumps. I met my wife there who was a parachute packer in the WAFS and we later married after the war.

We then joined the 7th battalion Parachute Regiment. We did one more jump there and we then qualified for our wings and the red beret which, of course, was quite a thing to wear a red beret.



After that, we did a lot of training - training for D-Day - and did a number of jumps and schemes till eventually the big day came and we went to a tragic camp. Then when we went to see the film in the local cinema of where we were going to go. We had a fit because it was on the Normandy side which was very heavily defended, but we had the plum job as the CO said (by the way our COs name was 'pine-coffin' - not a very good name to go into action with). We were given Pegasus Bridge which was a bridge across the Carn canal and the River Orne. They were hoping to hold those bridges and that was our job, to hold those bridges.

The gliders went in first about midnight on the 5th. We followed on about 12.30am and took the bridges. We held them all day until about 2 o'clock.

Lord Lovett and his Commandos came through and they were going to play the bagpipes if they got through, so we were listening out for them. The bagpipes have never sounded so sweet as they did that day. Lord Lovett came and he was about half an hour late and he apologised for being late.

From then on, it was just fighting here and there. We had quite a few skirmishes on D- Day itself and we just fought our way through.

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I was wounded about four days later, funnily enough by our own artillery which landed in the wrong place - and we were in the wrong place at the wrong time. But anyway, I came back to Blighty and then joined the batallion again when they came back.

The next thing was the Ardennes and it was the Christmas of '44. We were going to have a good Christmas that year because it was reckoned to be the last Christmas of the war with Germany. About a week before Christmas, we were told to stay in barracks and they came round and said 'we're going to the Ardennes'.

Not knowing much about geography in those days, we didn't know where the Ardennes were until they told us so we went to the Ardennes by ship.



We went over there on Christmas Day and went straight up to the Ardennes where it was thick snow and not very good. Our boots were soaked within an hour or so and our socks soaked right through. We stayed up there for a couple of months.

Then we went on to Holland and held the line there while some of the other regiments went back to train for D-Day. Then we came back to England and we trained for the Rhine Crossing. We knew what was coming then because we'd jumped over enemy territory before - except the last jump was a night jump and this was a day drop which wasn't so good.

Americans took us across in Dakotas and when the flak came up so did they and we jumped from about 1,000 feet which was much too high for an operational jump. Many of the fellas got shot while coming down but once I landed, I was ok again.

I carried on with the regiment for a couple of months but I got wounded again so my army career finished on that day which was just before August 1945. But the war with Germany had ended and luckily the war with Japan ended the same month. My wife and I got married on her birthday on 21st August 1945."

By Doug Simmons from Welshpool

your comments

terrie sadler

I am looking for any information on my great grandfather Arthur Benton. All i know is that he was a paratrooper at hardwick, chesterfield in 1943/4. He is also thought to have lived in Liverpool.

Tue Mar 16 09:50:34 2010

Carl Rymen

Hello, I'm a historian with a big interest in the history of the 6th Airborne Division. In this way I hope to reach veterans and their relatives who think they could help me with my

research. On the other hand I'm very willing to help them with their questions too, as far as I can.

Thu Feb 18 14:18:28 2010

Helen Reynolds, Melbourne Aus

Hello, I would love any information/stories about my late father, Acting Sgt Arthur (Buck) Taylor, 22nd IND Para attached to British 6th Airborne.

Mon Feb 15 09:37:10 2010

Grafton Maggs from Mumbles

To Annabel Lloyd-Jones of Hay-on-Wye I served with your father throughout the whole of the Palestine campaign. He was second in command of the 6th BN(Royal Welch) the Parachute Regiment. I remember him as an incredible character and his closest friends always addressed him as "Wf". I played chess with him. I accompanied him on a very special trip to Gaza cemetery to photograph the graves of Blaenay Ffestiniog men who had been killed in WW1 during Allenby's campaign. We traced every grave and the photos were duly sent back home to Blaenau. One night in the mess, Wf showed me the letter of acknowledgement from the next of kin who had never had the chance to visit these graves and probably never would. This letter was full of gratitude to the extent that I was choked. Wf said to me, "There, Graf! That makes our long journey worth while!" I couldn't agree more. I remember him as a lovely man with the appearance of a classical scholar. Beneath this lived a fearless soldier, and a great tactician. He was one of the great characters of the Parachute Regiment. I managed to run him to ground when I visited Hay on Wye. I went to the local British Legion and asked if anyone knew him. About a dozen voices were raised in the bar!. I was directed to his cottage about five minutes away. It was a lovely meeting after so many years. I was flattered that he remembered me. It was Major Lloyd-Jones who was the first to see the immense potential that lie hidden in the young Sergeant Anthony Farrar-Hockley. He pushed him to go for a commission. Farrar-Hockley returned to the 6th Bn. Within months Wf pushed him for second in command of his company. Like Wf he won an MC and by the age of 23 was a Major commanding C company. His life story can be read anywhere it is incredible and he eventually became General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley DSO and bar, MC, in command of NATO. Wf pushed him. When we met we talked of old battalion characters, needless to say FarrarHockley was one of them. I have many memories and I am going to find out where your father won his MC. Please get in touch!

Tue Feb 2 10:11:45 2010

Martin Howes from Berkshire

If you are the relative of a WW2 veteran talk to them and write it all down for your family to cherish. Secondly never pass on original items to people who contact you saying they are interested in it, writing a book etc. You might never see your items again!!

Fri Jan 29 11:25:30 2010

Porter- somerset

am looking for any info on my grandads brother- name of Porter who was in the gliders who came down in the last glider on the orne

Thu Jan 21 12:10:49 2010

Terry from Yateley

not one person has mentioned Richard Todd does anybody recall seeing him on the tonga operation at pegasus bridge

on D.Day, after the film the longest day came out I seem to recall reading that his part in this was in doubt.

Sun Dec 6 14:07:11 2009

Stephen Taylor from Padiham Lanc's

My late uncle served with the parachute regiments in North Africa 1939 1945 WW2. and was killed there, His name was Edward Huck. Does anyone have any information on this.

Thu Nov 5 15:16:54 2009

Bill Watts from Bishops Stortford

My website is designed to trace and reunite members of the 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment who served with me in Palestine during the period 1945-48. So I have traced about 50 members of the Bn reuniting many with old friends they hadn't seen for around 50-60 years. My website contains hundreds of photos of groups and individuals taken in Palestine together with pages on the history of the Regiment. <http://www.3para1945-48palestine.com>

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Fri Oct 2 13:17:10 2009

Linda Sobanski manchester

My Father-in-law age 87 has just visited Arnhem with myself and his granddaughter he was in 1st Polish Independent Para Brigade I have been trying to find a picture to put in his album does anyone know where I can get one from?

Mon Sep 28 10:27:24 2009

Jannette Ryder

My father Stanley Gibbons was in the 6th Ox Bucks paratroop regiment at Pegasus Bridge. Fortunately he is still here with us and has many stories to tell - do you know him?

Wed Sep 16 09:22:28 2009

PA Sanders

I want to find out more about my father who was in para reg Warwickshire his name was Eric Douglas Wright

Mon Aug 24 09:26:56 2009

david baker

trying to find information on a walter baker from derbyshire in the uk who was a paratrooper in ww2.

Wed Aug 19 14:47:01 2009

Kenneth Shepherd, Yorkshire

Ken joined up to serve his country in ww2 at the age of 15 using his brothers papers serving in black watch.

Mon Aug 10 11:24:06 2009

Linda

My Grandfather John Ernest Beecham AKA Ernie served in the 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade, 4th Battalion, A Company. If anyone has any information about either the 4th Battalion or A Company that would be great.

Mon Jul 27 15:31:41 2009

Paul Topliss from Kirton in Lindsey

Im looking for anybody who knew my father who was Raymond Topliss of 13para he served in the Suez conflict, would like hear from anybody who served with him.

Wed Jul 15 15:21:55 2009

Kerry. from Birmingham UK

Im looking to find more out about my grandad fredrick Ward of the 1st para's who was at Arnhem in 1944.

Sun Jun 21 21:48:16 2009

mandy from australia

the photo of the 3 paratroopers, 327 looks like my dad, kenneth eric gustavsson, he was a paratrooper during ww2 I know he was in palestine and I have a photo of him injeruselum, I am also trying to get his war records

Sun Jun 7 21:24:57 2009

Guy Stewart, Preston, Lancashire

My Grandfather was Major 'Dickie' Stewart MC. OC 'S' Company at Arheim, wounded, taken prisoner at the surrender and spent the rest of the war in Spengenberg Castle near Kassel. Does anyone recall him?

Wed Jun 3 16:09:30 2009

Ian Dowden, Clitheroe

My father was a corporal in 3 btn Polish Paratrooper Brigade. He won the Krzyz Walecznych. Sadly died 4 years ago :(

Sun May 17 12:39:08 2009

Annabel Lloyd-Jones from Hay-on-Wye

My late father was Major Humphrey LLOYD-Jones. I was hoping somebody could tell me whereabouts he obtained his MC. I think it was in Tamera (North Africa) - his last wish was to have his ashes scattered there. I don't want to go all the way to North Africa and scatter them in the wrong place. I would appreciate any other information you have about him during this time.

Fri Apr 3 09:09:32 2009

Frank Evans Berkshire

My brother cpl Ernie Evans 2nd btn KRRC served Nth Africa 8 Army came home with Monty to prepare for D/Day KIA OCT 1944 Now Rest IN Bourgleopold Belgium any of his comrades with memories give me a call.

Tue Mar 31 09:03:59 2009

Frank Evans Berkshire

My brother cpl Ernie Evans 2nd btn KRRC served Nth Africa 8 Army came home with Monty to prepare for D/Day KIA OCT 1944 Now Rest IN Bourgleopold Belgium any of his comrades with memories give me a call.

Tue Mar 31 09:03:58 2009

Mike, Abergele

To linda southgateYour father would have served with the 5th scottish parachute battalion 2nd independent parachute brigade group the parachute regiment. He would have served in North Africa april /sept 1943 Italy sept 1943 august 15 1944 Southen France august 15/28 1944back to italy august 30/oct 14 th 1944 Greece oct 14th 1944 feb 3rd 1945once again back to italy feb/ june 1945 then back to th uk

Thu Mar 5 09:47:09 2009

mike abergele

to sandy rodwell NZThere is a photograph of the whole of c company 6th RWF parachute battalion at the new airborne museum duxford which is on line

Sun Mar 1 19:55:45 2009

James Ind, Brighton

My late father George Ind served from 39 to 45 initially in the Princess Louises Middlesex Regiment and then in the 2nd Batallion Para Regiment from 42.Still deciphering his

records but he fought in North Africa and Europe..Would be great to get further info,photos etc
Sun Jan 25 18:10:55 2009

Brassett Billericay Essex

My father was in the 2nd battalion Oxs and Bucks before volunteering for the 6th Airborne. He served in Normandy, Holland, Germany and Palestine taking part in action in the Ardennes and the taking of Pegusus Bridge
Tue Jan 20 16:26:37 2009

Archie Williams

my uncle jumped out of planes, in north africa in 1944 war, he was white man , we have a purple heart.got washed in katrina, i have one picture of him jumping do you have any knoeings where he would be on the stone where the put there names. from columbia ms. his name is not there
Tue Jan 6 09:46:29 2009

James Foster from Guelph Ontario

I served in the 6th Btn Royal Welsh C company under the command of Major Oliver Evans in 1946. We served in Germany in Lubeck and the surrounding area. I was the signals operator as well as expert on the BIAT. I would be interested in hearing from anyone from the C company who served during that time.
Tue Dec 9 10:23:50 2008

Patricia Watson, London

To John Jones, Llaneli:This may be useful in connection with the 6th Bat in Dusseldorf. It's a translation fom a German request for info. find it on www.lightinfantry.org.uk, navigate to Ox and Bucks regiment, then it's Archive, then scroll down to Ken Maarden, Liverpool. Hope this sheds some light.

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Fri Nov 21 09:40:37 2008

Kristina Lukomski Casola, California

I am trying to get information on my Grandfather's (Kazimierz Lukomski) service with the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade if anyone can help me- I have many documents and some photos, and medals that I know little about. Thank you!
Fri Nov 14 09:14:03 2008

Mrs B from West Sussex

Part 1 - My dear Dad was in the 6th Airborn - His name was Sidney Naldrett. He never really spoke about his time during the war to his family. But did open up to my husband over the years. He did 3 jumps during the conflict. Whilst training on Salisbury Plains - jumping from the belly of the plane - he severely injured his face and was put on light duties until it healed. At one time he was batman to Richard Todd the actor. After one of his jumps he was captured by the Germans, but they did not have an officer with them & were completely lost - as what to do without orders - Dad told my hubby - he was at the end of the line of captured prisioners & kept being poked by the German bringing up the rear of the line. Which knowing my Dad, would have made him very angry!!! He decided at the next stop, he'd had enough & whilst the Krut were huddled together, wondering just what to do with the captives- Dad decided to walk off in the opposite direction. He said he was scared stiff at the time & was expecting a bullet in the back at any moment! He managed to get away by pure cheek & joined up with the

Americans and eventually returned to England.

Mon Nov 10 17:06:25 2008

Mrs B from West Sussex,

Part 2 - He too was under Pine Coffin and was dropped into the Ardennes - they held their position, despite being constantly bombarded by the Germans - The expected relief were overdue & things were pretty rough - You should hear what my Dad called the "Jocks" who were sent in as backup - Why? Because they came in blowing the ***** bagpipes & gave away my Dad & the other para's position. Now the Germans had pinpointed their position they bombed the hell out of our lads. We learnt from an early age - never to mention Bagpipes! He was slightly older than the majority of intakes - and alth! ough he was promoted several times - he was also busted - he was a man who didn't suffer fools gladly & if he thought a green horn officer gave out stupid orders - well - that's why he got busted for telling them so & the reason why.

Mon Nov 10 17:06:01 2008

Mrs B from West Sussex,

Part 3 - Once he was sent up the lines with a message under heavy fire. His officer told him, that under normal circumstances he should have put his name forward for a medal - but the officer admitted he should never have sent him in the 1st place! Bang went the gong! My Dad was just one of those brave young men - who were sent to fight the foe - he didn't shirk his duties - infact he applied to join the SAS, which were just being formed - but was turned down by reason of him having a young family. He never applied for his war medal and as I say, the stories I heard about his war came to me second hand via my hubby. God bless them all. Lest we forget

Mon Nov 10 17:05:31 2008

Nancy Csorny from NY

My late dad, Salvatore Richard Rizzo, was a paratrooper in WWII. I am looking for info on his service.

Name,rank,medalsAlso my late grandfather Salvo Rizzo served in the army in WWI Italy), and WWII (US). Looking for any info.

Thu Oct 30 10:30:08 2008

Andy Blenkhorn, Swinton, manchester

My Father Eric Richard Blenkhorn, was in the paras during wwii and served in cairo. Does anybody have any information about him or another para who was called Archie Last.

Fri Oct 17 07:23:46 2008

shaun canniford from weston-super-mare

Does anyone know or remember a Frank (Jock) Elrick from ballater scotland. Frank, my father in law moved from the black watch to the RWF parachute regiment. He fought at normandy, across to germany, north africa and palestine. He reached rank of provost sargeant. Frank is still well at 85 and his army past is in his thoughts always. When we visit we always like to chat about his service history and old friends. Sadly his memory is not what was it was and he can't put names and faces from his many photos together these days. I would love to give him any information of old friends to rekindle some lost memories. Ant help would be great.

Mon Oct 6 09:28:29 2008

Maureen O'Mahoney from Dorset UK

Has anyone information on my fathers regiment and history. He was originally with the Ox & Bucks prior to the 6th Airborne. He was Warrant Officer RSM Christopher (Mick) O'Mahoney. If anyone has any info I really would appreciate it. Is there a website where his military career could be looked at? Many Thanks
Tue Sep 30 09:53:53 2008

Michael Gardiner, Edinburgh scotland

My grandad, peter gardiner, served as a wireless operator in 53rd (welsh) infantry division in ww2. His best mate was called Alec Grant who was killed sometime in normandy i think. has anyone got info?
Mon Sep 8 17:31:25 2008

Deirdre Borrego from CA, USA

My uncle James Mount from Belfast was one of the original British Royal Paratroopers. If anyone has any information about him i would be most grateful if they could pass it on.
Sun Aug 31 13:52:39 2008

Georgina Mcmeekin London

My grandad was a para, I think between 1939-1945? his name was thomas arthur richards... if any one has any info or pictures please please let me know. thanks
Tue Aug 26 09:28:04 2008

John Jones from Llanelli, Wales

My Father Gwynfor Jones served with the 6th Bat RWF from 1944 to 1947. He landed in France a few days after D-Day. He ended the war near Hamburg. After the Surrender of Germany he was posted back to Dusseldorf until he was demobbed. He was a frequenter of the 94 Club. Would like to hear from anyone who's father was at Dusseldorf 1946/1947 with the RWF.
Wed Aug 13 07:03:53 2008

Roger Morgan from Cardiff

my uncle, Jack Philp was, I believe Lord Lovetts radio operator. He joined the Commandos on their formation,trained in Scotland and remained with his unit until the end of the war. He died a couple of years ago aged 89 yrs.
Thu Jul 31 10:08:05 2008

Grafton Maggs of Mumbles, Swansea served with 6th

I served with the 6th Bn (Royal Welch) the Parachute Regiment from 1945 to 1947. I was first a platoon commander in C Company (oc Major Tony Farrar-Hockley MC. Then I was Signals Officer. For a short while I was acting adjutant. Bn CO was Lt Col Tilley later followed by Cubbon. 2ic was Major LLOYD Jones MC, One of the greatest characters of our noble regiment. Would love to hear from anyone who served during that period.
Thu Jul 17 09:33:39 2008

Maggie Swanwick Nottingham

My uncle Dennis Lee from Brinsley Nottingham Underwood last known address, and I think originally from Brighton Sussex his family. He was in the red berets the 1st paratroopers in world war two, he died in February 1992 any one who knew him please contact me, he had a daughter called Geraldine who I believe lived in Wales and a son Michael who died some time ago in Brighton.
Fri Jun 27 09:09:10 2008

Jayne Gibbons, Cambridge

I am searching for any information about the 3rd Battalion parachute regiment. My dad (Richard (Dick) Goodliffe) served between 1950 - 1952 in Cyprus and Egypt. I would like to hear from anyone who served with him or who may have any photographs.

Mon May 19 09:11:19 2008

S.Clement from France

I'm seeking any information on Sergeant 119335 William Alfred Marriott who served with 12th (Yorkshire) Battalion Parachute Regiment during World War Two. He jumped at D-Day and was in the Rhine crossing also he was wounded on the D-Day landing. Any further information would be greatly appreciated.

Sun May 4 11:20:29 2008

Pam Ashcroft from Pottsville Australia

My late dad Stanley Ashcroft was a paratrooper in WWII captured at Arnheim I think. A museum in Liverpool England contacted my late mother Eileen asking to display them and his service book. I am trying to find information on where they were sent and if I can get a photograph.

Fri Apr 25 09:59:15 2008

Ron from Derby

Does anyone have any information or stories about my late stepfather Joseph Hartley, he was in 7th (LI) Battalion Parachute Regiment and was dropped into Arnhem

Sun Mar 16 13:08:49 2008

Kevin Lawn

To Doug Simmons from Welshpool. did you know Harry Lawn 1st bat/A company if so please get in contact with me via this site.

Thu Mar 6 10:15:45 2008

Yvonne Robertson

my boy friends father was in the red berets paratrooper in the Cameroons Battalion between 1940 to 1945 he was a sergeant his name was Michael Joseph McLaughlan if any one has any pictures of that time can they email them to me...

Wed Feb 27 17:20:32 2008

Mike, Abergele

To relatives of 2nd Parachute Brigade WW2 if you go into YouTube video section and type in 2nd Parachute Brigade Greece there is a colour film of the 2nd Parachute Brigade going into Greece October 1944

Mon Feb 25 07:59:42 2008

Alan from Sydney

My uncle "Stanley Dennis" was a para during WWII I understood that he had reached the rank of captain by the end of the war.

Wed Feb 6 09:41:04 2008

Denzil Lobo from Mhow

Katie, I'm Denzil Lobo, a local historian by hobby from Mhow. I am trying to preserve as much as history/ photos of Mhow as possible. Would you mind sending me the pictures you have? Let me know...

Mon Jan 28 16:12:22 2008

Mike, Abergele

To Bruce Micklewright. My late father served in the 6th Royal Welch Parachute Battalion the Parachute Regiment in A, B, and HQ Companies, in North Africa Italy South of France and Greece I used to hear him talk of a Micklewright in high

regard. My late father was sgt Nat Edwards who was also a pre war regular with the RWF.

Mon Jan 21 08:34:11 2008

John Jolliffe from Fareham Hants

My late father was with 13 Para, 6th Airborne Div. from 1942 and served in Normandy, Ardenne, Rhine Crossing and Palestine. He remained in the Army after the war and left in 1972/3. He died in 2001. I would be interested to hear from anyone who knew him.

Mon Nov 12 12:01:08 2007

Greg Collins, Sussex

To Bruce Micklewright of Leeds. My father, still alive, praise God, would have been a contemporary of your father's in the 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade, serving in N Africa, Italy, Greece (Athens). Dad, George Collins, was in the unit of the Royal Welch Fusiliers that formed part of the brigade.

Wed Oct 31 12:12:11 2007

Christine from Oldham

I am trying to find out some information about a Great Uncle who trained Polish Paratroopers at Ringway Airport, Manchester during WW2. His name is John Bradbury he later went on to receive the Polish Eagle.

Mon Oct 8 07:50:47 2007

H Pearson, Rossendale, Lancashire

My father served in the 2nd bn parachute regmt and was a private during ww2. His name, James Taylor from Rossendale Lancashire. He was born in 1926. He didn't talk about his army career but I have found evidence he served in Palestine and I do know that at one point he was hospitalised to the Isle of Wight- if anyone has any info please could they let me know.

Fri Sep 14 09:10:58 2007

Linda Southgate, Sydney Australia

I am looking for information on my late father Fredrick Cranham, he was a paratrooper in the war and he served in North Africa, Italy and Greece as well as other places. I think his commanding officer's name was West Russell my dad did not talk about the war but I think his regiment was a Scottish regiment but I am not sure, I would really appreciate any information.

Sun Aug 19 20:10:00 2007

Bruce Micklewright, Leeds

My Father Charles (Charlie) Micklewright, served in a Welch company of the 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade, he served in North Africa, Italy (Monte Casino) Greece and Palestine, He was from Huddersfield Yorkshire, he sadly passed away last year but left dozens of photos, groups of men and action shots taken by a correspondent attached to his company, these are now in the possession of my brother who lives in New Zealand, if you can contact me via the website, there could be a slim chance that a photo might in some way help your search, my father was very reluctant to talk about the war but I know my mother does know the names of some of the men he served with. Bruce

Mon Aug 13 11:09:20 2007

Katie from Snowdonia

My father was Allan F I Peacock, he served in India 1945-7. I have pictures of him in Bilao Nov 1945, Bannu NWFP Pakistan Aug 1947, Mhow Dec 1946. I know he was on the NW frontier of India during partition (the wrong side). He

was dropped in a desert somewhere, in the wrong place, and was severely dehydrated, went to military hospital, and was told he would not live long. He actually lived to be 49, and he died in Scotland in 1975. I am very interested to know which regiment he was in, and anything else anyone might know. I also believe he received campaign medals, how would I find that out? I have pictures of him with some of his friends - Mitch Mitchell, Paddy Morgan, Jack Cooke, Doug (Willie) Williams. I'd be interested to hear from any of Allan's friends. Thanks for any help!

Mon Aug 6 08:57:00 2007

Francis Kirkham from Crediton

I am looking for information about my father, Raymond F.S. Kirkham, who was in the 5th Parachute Brigade RAMC during and just after the second world war. He died in 1982. He was dropped over the Rhine in 1945 and later served in the far east, but apart from that I know very little.

Tue Jul 31 18:26:04 2007

Stan Warwick, Harlow, Essex

Served with the Third Batt Paras, 1st and 6th Div, 1944/ 47, Germany Palestine etc, Londales mob. You can find a great deal of info re paras at the domain run by Cpl Wicks Third Para Palestine 1945/ 48, lots of luck. Good to see some guys out there still around, many who did a bit more than me, my respects and knowledge of all those way back, for that which they, we all did, in that mad long ago. Couldn't have served with a finer bunch of men.

Mon Jul 30 09:01:52 2007

Paul Evans

My grandfather was Sergeant James (Jim) Evans from Manchester. He was in the Parachute Regiment from December 1941, having previously been with the Commandos. He served in North Africa and Italy and was wounded by mortar fire at Monte Cassino in March 1944.

Any information gratefully received.

Fri Jul 13 11:26:21 2007

Paul from Suffolk

My Grandfather James (Jim?) Chamberlain was a regular in Oxford and Bucks Light infantry (believe 1st BN) before ww2 and became (sgt?) instructor in Parachute regiment during war, never discussed service with me but was proud of Green Jackets and took me to reunions and museum in 70's, he died in 1984 but would like to know more about him and possible active duty.

Sun May 27 19:34:49 2007

Ray Madeline van Dinther, nee Silvester, Los Angeles

Re: Captain & Commanding Officer Vernon John Bellis Silvester 1st British Airborne Division who parachuted into Arnheim in September 1944. My Dad was also mentioned in Montgomery's memoirs for his action in Sceledeima in January, February 1941. He was in the 1st battalion, The Welch Regiment, and escaped from German mobile forces with a bullet in his knee, on 28, January 1941 and walked some 300 to 400 miles through the desert, hiding from the Germans, being helped by bedouins (Arab nomads) until 12th February 1941 where he merged with Poles from a South African battalion. He was admitted to hospital and then rejoined his unit. He also parachuted into Arnheim. He is mentioned here on the 1st British Airborne Division who parachuted into Arnheim in September 1944. The story of his escape from the Germans is written in the footnotes on page 69 through 74 in The History Of The Welch Regiment

1919 - 1951.

Tue May 8 16:35:08 2007

Scott Seal

F.A.O. Martin Finucane and Bruce Parmenter I understand you are trying to find out info about your relative Albert Finucane who served with the 1st Parachute Battalion in N.Africa. This unit was no2 commando 11th SAS 1st Parachute Battalion. originally Britains first of many Parachute units.My father was Colour Sgt Eric Seal who served in 5 platoon ,S company as platoon Sgt in N.Africa under LT Mellor later Captain Mellor KIA.An exceptionally brave officer. The battle you mentioned may have been Djebel Mansour[Djebel means mountain in Arabic] and this along with the pass of Tamera may have been the place? Sadly the only remaining m! ember of 5 platoon is Ted Yates who lives in Northampton. My father lived a long life passing away in March 2003 aged 83yrs he was a true gentleman and gallant warrior having survived N.Africa [where most of the Para battles were fought and the name Red Devils bestowed upon them by their enemies] also Sicily, Italy and Arnhem.The secretary of this unit is Doug Charlton and he is still alive so if you need more info I could find out for you.
Thu Apr 26 10:29:24 2007

Morna from Bath

My father, David George Johns, was I think originally seconded to the commandos at the start of war (he was from Stirling, Scotland). I do not know much about his war years - only before he passed away did it come out little by little. I know he was in India and also on the beaches at Salerno, Naples. Anyone has any idea how I can start tracing his time in the army?
Thu Mar 29 14:42:08 2007

René Torsin from Belgium

Seeking info on Fred Greenhalgh killed 6-6-1944 member of the Oxford and Bucks and buried at La Delivrande War Cemetery near Caen.
Wed Mar 21 09:51:25 2007

Martin Finucane West Australia

Bruce:Re Alfred Finucane Para-He was 1st Battalion 1st Brigade.He was in nth Africa.He was one of six Survivors at a place i think called Mount Mansu holding a pass.He did not go to Arnhem as he was sitting his medics exam at the time he finished as a sargent.
Sun Mar 18 12:52:16 2007

Heidi Formosa Rome

Last week some friends who own a hotel in Italy found a letter while they were doing renovations in the hotel. The letter was written in 1945 by Gnl.R.B Walker (rank 143526m). We are very curious to know his story, if anyone has some info please contact me at my email. Thanks
Tue Feb 27 16:34:04 2007

Mike from Abergele

To Sandy Rodwell , with your father being a medic he would have served with the 127th paracute field ambulance RAMC 2n independent parachute brigade group 1942/45 6 section of the field ambulance was attached to the 6th parachute battalion of the 2nd brigade they served in north africa april/sept1943 italy sept1943 to august 15th 1944 southern france august 1944 back to italy sept/oct 14th 1944 greece oct14 1944/feb 3rd 1945 back to italy feb/june uk june /oct 1945 palestine oct 11th1945/jan 27th 1947 I hope this

helps.

Tue Feb 20 10:08:15 2007

Mike, Abergele

If you want the number of his battalion this might help. 1st 2nd 3rd parachute battlions made up 1st parachute brigade - served in north africa, sicily, italy, arnem. 4th 5th 6th parachute battalions made up the 2nd independent parachute brigade group - served in north africa, italy, southern, france, greece, palestine. (post war) 8th 9th 1st canadian parachute battalions made up 3rd parachute brigade - serving in normandy, belgium, ardennes, holland, and germany, palestine (post war) 10th 11th 156th parachute battalions made up 4th parachute brigade and served at italy, koss, and arnem . 7th 12th 13th parachute battalions made up 5th parachute brigade and served in normandy, belgium, ardennes, holland, germany, (india malaya singapore java post war) 15th and 16th parachute battalions served in India 1945/46

Fri Feb 2 09:58:39 2007

Margaret

I am trying to find info on my grandfather who was a paratrooper. I was wondering if there was a website where i could find his name, rank, and other info. please let me know if or anyone else would be able to help me.

Sun Jan 28 15:38:45 2007

June Ford, Bristol

My father was with Lord Lovetts commandos. His name was Victor Edgar Ford cpl s/98746he got posted to the commandos in 1941 and got killed in london visting his father and they both got killed on 3 aug 1944.

Tue Jan 2 10:16:32 2007

Mike from Abergele

To Denis Reeves There is a book called Pegasus Bridge by Stephen E Ambrose with the story of the full glider borne action and names.

Fri Nov 17 09:48:17 2006

Denis Reeves

i was wondering do you have the list of names of the paras who landed in the gliders at the Pegasus bridge. My late father was wounded by a mortar at the bridge but he would not talk about what happened as he lost some good friends. At the time he lost a large part of his calf muscle and for the rest of his life he could not use his left arm properly his name was Sid Reeves from Liverpool and his picture is on the wall of the cafe by the bridge he only ever returned once and saw the picture. He also met the daughter of the original owner.

Mon Nov 13 09:56:36 2006

Sandy Rodwell, New Zealand

I am looking for information about my father, Les Jefferson. He died recently aged 87 and was from Yorkshire. He was a medic then paratrooper and was in a troop carrier in the Indian Ocean before Iraq, Syria and mostly southern Italy. My father was in the 2nd Independent Paratrooper Brigade 6th Battalion. R Welch C company. I would be interested to hear from anyone else in that company.

Mon Nov 13 09:54:52 2006

Cyrus Malkin

My Grandad's brother, Great Uncle, was a bagpipe player for Lord Lovett's Commando's. I do not know his name but

would love more info, or a list of all the soldiers, last name would have been Malkin!

Fri Aug 25 09:31:04 2006

Jan Price

In 1945 I was taken to Germany by my Father who was in the army. We were in Berling and Spandau where he guarded Hess. As small as I was I remember the ruined city and we went to school in a ten ton truck

Wed Aug 16 17:09:46 2006

Bruce Parmenter from Northfleet

I am looking to find out more about my Great Uncle Alfred Finucane I know he was a para in the war and may have served in Africa.

Mon Jul 31 11:24:14 2006

Chris Roberts

My grandfather was Alan Campbell, I want to learn a lot more about him and what he did during the war. He was captain of the commandos under Lord Lovett during the glider landings.

Mon Jun 19 10:46:22 2006

Mark Ashby Melbourne, Australia

I am seeking info on my father Albert Ashby who served with oxford & bucks on d-day apparently landed by glider at one of the bridges on the orne or dives rivers. I have no other knowledge.

Wed Jan 18 03:10:37 2006

Jim Richardson, Swindon

I am searching for information concerning the war time activities of my late uncle, Cpl James (Jim) Richardson who was in the Ox and Bucks. He volunteered for service in the Airbourne and was in a unit with his pal Sgt Basil Collins.

Fri Nov 11 12:30:20 2005

Mike from Abergele

My late father Percy Edwards was from Guilsfield. 1932/33 he served under age in the 7th Batallion RWF Territorial army for 2 years. He served with the 1st Batallion RWF regular army 1934 to 1942. He volunteered for the airborne 1942 and served with the 6th [RWF] parachute Batallion the parachute regiment. He saw active service in North Africa, Italy, Southen France and Greece being demobed Feb 1946. He was known as Sgt Nat Edwards 4190997. He lived at the Old Post Office Guilsfield before joining the army and died aged 53.

Sat Jul 23 11:46:33 2005

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