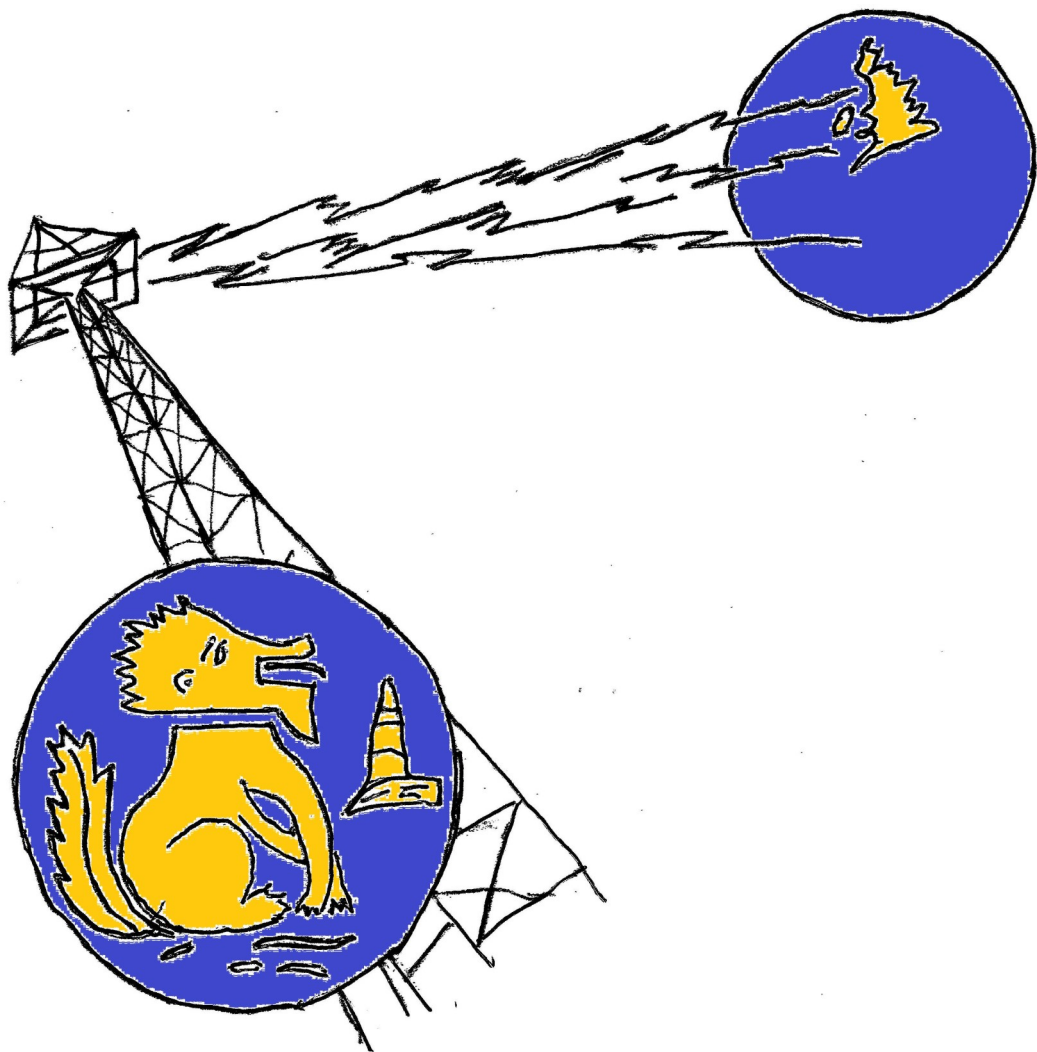


Mum and dad's war

1939-1946



Foreward

I am the youngest of four children, an older sister and brother (Joyce and Peter) born in the 1930s, and me and another brother (Brian) born in the 1950s. As a young boy, I knew dad had been in India and Burma during the war, but he spoke very little about it (and mum even less) and at the time I didn't take much interest.

Now much later in life as I look into my family tree I have also been looking at what life was like for mum and dad during the Second World War, and I can only say that my respect for them has grown and I wish I had paid more attention when I was younger.

They say that war is months of boredom followed by moments of terror. Dad's moments of terror occurred in 1944 when he was part of the second Chindit operation in Burma. For mum, and all the others back at home, all they would have known about this came from a standard letter stating something like "Your husband is fit and well but owing to operational reasons will be unable to write as usual". I don't know whether receiving these letters would have helped or not.

This booklet contains copies of the surviving letters and 'airgraphs' exchanged between mum, dad, Joyce and Peter along with some of his army documents and photos from various sources. I have included some notes about what was going on in the wider world at the time (shown in blue) as well as details from dad's service record.

Robert Whiteman

Contents

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3-11	1935 to 1942	Before the war and the first years
12-26	1942 to 1943	From call-up to embarkation
27-45	1944	India and Burma
46-59	1945	The war comes to an end
60-77	1946	Waiting to come home
77-88		Notes and maps

25th Dec 1935 Married at Diddington in Huntingdonshire
26th Sep 1936 Joyce born
10th Aug 1938 Peter born



Diddington

Wedding—The Parish Church was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Christmas Day, when Miss Ellen S. Joyce, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Joyce, was married to Mr Francis Freeman Whiteman, son of the late Mr Whiteman and Mrs Whiteman of Denford, Northants. The vicar, Rev T. H. Higgins officiated. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a pretty blue dress and veil, with shoes to match, and carried a lovely bouquet of white chrysanthemums. She was attended by the Misses Winifred and Elsie Joyce (sisters of the bride) and Miss Peggy Moss (niece), who wore pretty peach coloured dresses, silver shoes and wreaths and carried bouquets of white and pink chrysanthemums. Mr A. Whiteman carried out the duties of best man. After the ceremony a reception was held at the bride's home, a large number of guests being present. The happy couple received a large number of presents. They will make their future home at Ringstead.

1939 Register

As part of the preparations for the possibility of war, the British government carried out a kind of simple census in 1939 which listed dates of birth and occupations. Thus the family were shown as living in the Sivers Building in Ringstead, dad's occupation given as "rough carpenter" and mum as "unpaid domestic duties".

The rest of dad's family were still in the family home of Ferndale in Denford. Grandmother Emily with her new husband John Griggs (carpenter and joiner, facially disabled), uncle Alf (William Alfred, age 31, gardener and jobbing builder) with his wife Kitty (Kathleen, domestic servant), uncle Ted (Edmund Fairey, age 22, clicker and shoe operative), and uncle Len (Leonard George, age 18, bricklayer). Also at that address were Edward Parker (poultry farmer) and his wife Elizabeth (unpaid domestic duties).



A post-war photo of dad outside the Sivers building, probably with Brian. The family moved to Denford Road in Ringstead when I was born in 1957.


Sivers Row

The family lived in one of the middle houses in the terrace. It was a typical two up/two down, with a further bedroom in the attic (Pete's) reached by a ladder from one of the bedrooms. The toilet was in a shed across the yard and there was a loft above the toilet and shed. This was a common feature in the area as much of the work done in the boot and shoe industry was carried at a home rather than in the factories. No doubt isolating the workshop kept the smell of glue out of the house and reduced fire risks.



Pete, mum and Joyce, possibly taken in 1945 near her parents' home in Diddington.

3rd Sep 1939	Declaration of war against Germany
14th May 1940	Broadcast by Anthony Eden calling for Local Defence Volunteers. 22 men from Ringstead sign up
1st July 1940	L.D.V. Renamed Home Guard
16th Aug 1940	Bombs dropped on Kilsby in Northamptonshire
3rd Oct & 19th Nov 1940	Bombs dropped on Rushden

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE N.D.V. IDENTITY CARD		
TO BE CARRIED BY ALL N.D. VOLUNTEERS.		
DIV.	GROUP	PARISH
	11	RINGSTEAD
Christian Names and Surname in block capitals		
WHITEMAN		
		
Signature of Group or Company Commander.		
Date.....28th June, 1940.		
To be returned to Group Commander on ceasing to serve.		
Anyone finding this Card will hand it to the Police.		

This letter was addressed to dad as L/Cpl F.F.Whiteman

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

BY

Lieut-Colonel V. H. Sykes, M.A., LL.B.,
Commanding 8th Bn. Northamptonshire Home Guard.

11th November, 1941.

In spite of what happened twenty-three years ago, we face again the same foe. He is numerically superior, tough, relentless and cruel. His objective is the desolation of English homes. Should that happen, our freedom, privileges and way of life will cease. Our membership of the Home Guard implies that each of us will do our utmost to kill the invader.

I wish to thank all of you, who for months past have given time, money and diligence in equipping yourselves to discharge a great duty. I realise the responsibility and likewise the privilege of command. I feel that all in this Battalion will do, and are anxious to do the job like men. To be fit and trained is an absolute essential. The soldier of past wars must also learn the new weapons and new ways of fighting. We have many old soldiers who by their example are giving great help.

I appeal to any Volunteer, who may have slackened off, to consult his conscience. When fighting commences, the slacker will be a danger to his comrades and to himself.

Each man should be able to shoot to kill, bomb with effect and outwit the Hun.

It has been written that the last War "was not won by the genius of the few," but by the faithfulness of the many."

Let each of us ask the questions—"Am I keeping faith?" "Shall I let my friends and neighbours down?"

Remember that Invasion is still possible and probable.

Our Winter Training has commenced. With new weapons, a year's experience and lessons from the field, the training will be more varied and helpful. The Germans say "Sweat saves Blood." Let us be prepared by sweating at our training.

Considerable changes have taken place in this Battalion during recent months. The number of Officers and Companies has been doubled. Better control and greater efficiency will follow. There is a great spirit of comradeship throughout all ranks, with no slackening of discipline. We must maintain and improve this standard.

Volunteers who have joined the Regular Army have profited by their training in the Home Guard. I know of many cases of quick advancement in the Army due solely to previous experience in the Home Guard.

I wish you all success as you continue your training. Whether fighting alone, or with the Regular Army, may we be worthy of the County Regiment.

V. H. SYKES,
Lieut-Colonel,
Commanding 8th Bn. Northamptonshire Home Guard.

Income and expenditure

I don't know how much dad was earning before the war, and it is difficult to establish exactly how much he earned after he was called up. British Infantry privates were paid 2s 6d per day (half of what Americans, Canadians and Australians were getting), but with stoppages this weekly pay of 17s 6d was reduced to 12s 6d. Married men frequently made an allotment to their wives which further reduced their pay to 10s. As a tradesman dad's pay would have been slightly higher, getting re-mustered to Operator Wireless and Line BIII as he did after the first year's training would have increased his pay by 3d per week.

Mum would have been receiving about 25s per week for herself, plus 8s 6d for Joyce and 6s 6d for Pete for a total of 40s. She did some cleaning work around the village and she kept the allotment garden. Again I don't know quite what the rent was, but similar houses in nearby Raunds were rented out at 5s per week. Here are some sample prices from 1944:

Oatmeal	3 1/2d per lb
Self raising flour	7 1/2d per 3lb
Potatoes	7d per lb
Bread	9d per 4 lb loaf
Soap	6 1/2d per tablet
Washing powder	4d per small packet
Cigarettes	2s 6d per 20
Chocolates	9d per 1/4 lb box

Rationing was gradually introduced from 1939 beginning with bacon, butter and sugar. Meat was rationed from March 1940, tea, margarine and cooking fats in July that year, cheese and preserves from 1941. Clothing was rationed from 1941, originally 66 coupons per adult, reduced to 48 a year later, to 36 in 1943 and 24 in 1945. Children got 10 extra coupons.

Adult weekly ration per person in 1944

Cheese	3 oz	(2d)	Bacon or ham	4 oz	(6d)
Butter	2 oz	(2d)	Cooking fat	2 oz	(1d)
Margarine	2 oz	(1d)	Sugar	8 oz	(2d)
Jam	4 oz		Sweets	3 oz	
Tea	2 oz (adults only)	(4d)			
Meat	12 oz minced beef or equivalent value another meat	(1s)			
Eggs	1 per adult, 3 per child	(2d each)			
Milk	3 pints per adult, 7 pints for a child under 5, (3d per pint)				
	3 1/2 pints for school age (who also received milk at school)				
Dried milk	1 pint (equivalent)				

Children received half this ration

Coal became rationed to 1 cwt per household per week (2s 9d)

There was also a points system of rationing brought in for tinned goods, dried fruit, cereals and biscuits. Initially in 1941 this was at 16 points for 4 weeks, later raised to 24. Tins of Spam and salmon were both originally 16 points, but this was changed to 8 points for Spam and 24 points for salmon.

People keeping chickens could exchange their egg ration for grain. Mum used to keep eggs fresh by keeping them in "waterglass". Perhaps she got extra eggs through her mother-in-law's neighbours.

In clothing coupons a blouse or pair of shoes would take 5, a dress 7 to 11 and a coat 14 coupons.

After dad was called up, for the ration food for herself and her children, mum would have needed about 7s. An airmail letter to dad in India would have cost 6d and an airgraph half that at 3d. When you add in the unrationed food like bread, plus soap and washing powder, rent, clothes and doctor's fees (Pete had asthma), there can't have been much left out of her two pounds.



ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

Your Ration Book

Issued to safeguard your food supply

HOLDER'S NAME AND REGISTERED ADDRESS

Surname _____

Other Names _____

Address _____

COMPARE WITH YOUR IDENTITY CARD AND REPORT ANY DIFFERENCE TO YOUR FOOD OFFICE

DO NOT ALTER

NAT. REG. NO.

--	--	--







Date of Issue _____ Serial Number of Book

If found, please return to PP 864705

FOOD OFFICE. R.B.1 [General] 4



Mum didn't keep any of her ration books, but these photographs show examples of the paperwork she would have needed, and above is a depiction of how a weekly ration would have looked.

<p>Sugar is <u>RATIONED</u></p>  <p>$\frac{1}{2}$ lb Weekly for an Adult or Child.</p>	 <p><u>Tea.</u> Use Tea with care. Use Coffee and Cocoa more freely than Tea.</p>	<p>Butter and Margarine are <u>RATIONED</u>.</p>  <p>Weekly Ration. 4 ozs. for an Adult or Child.</p>
<p>Bread for <u>Men</u> on ordinary industrial or other manual work 7 lbs. per head per week</p>  <p>1 lb. Daily Ration</p>	 <p>Use Potatoes freely.</p>	<p>Bread for <u>Women</u> on ordinary industrial work or in domestic service 4 lbs. per head per week</p>  <p>9 ozs. Daily Ration.</p>

7th Dec 1941 Japan declares war

1942

March Japanese capture Rangoon

3rd & 22nd Aug Bombs dropped on Wellingborough

2nd September Montgomery defeats Rommel in North Africa

19th November Russians begin counter offensive at Stalingrad

NATIONAL SERVICE (ARMED FORCES) ACTS, 1939 and 1940

ENLISTMENT NOTICE

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE DIVISIONAL OFFICE,
MIDLANDS DIVISION
(M. R. SECTION)
MINDEN HOUSE,
CLUMBER ROAD WEST
NOTTINGHAM.

9 DEC '42 (Date)

11557 (EXT. 4)

Mr. *J. F. Whiteman*
High Street
Ringstead
Newbans *Kettering*

Registration No. *RFD 202*

SIR,

in accordance with the National Service (Armed Forces) Acts, 1939 and 1940, you are required to appear for service in the Territorial Army and are required to present yourself on *17 DEC '42* day *17 DEC '42* (date), between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, or as soon as possible thereafter on that day, to:—

GENERAL SERVICE CORPS
NO. 16 Primary Training Centre,
East Retford,
Retford (nearest railway station).

* A Travelling Warrant for your journey is enclosed. Before starting your journey you must exchange the warrant for a ticket at the booking office named on the warrant. If possible, this should be done a day or two before you are due to travel. If your warrant is made out to travel from London you may obtain a railway ticket at, and travel from, the most convenient station to your address.

A Postal Order for 4s. in respect of advance service pay, is also enclosed.

Immediately on receipt of this notice, you should inform your employer of the date on which you are required to report for service.

Yours faithfully,
A. BENNETT
for Divisional Controller.

YOU SHOULD READ
CAREFULLY THE NOTES
OVERLEAF.

* Delete if not applicable.

—5901) Wt. 38391—9012 500M 1/41 T.S.77

P.T.

1942

3rd Aug Bombs dropped on Wellingborough

9th December Dad called up

17th December 16th Primary Training Centre, East Retford

NOTES

1. When you join your Unit you should take with you :—

This Enlistment Notice,

The enclosed envelope N.S. 124, completed in accordance with the directions at the top,

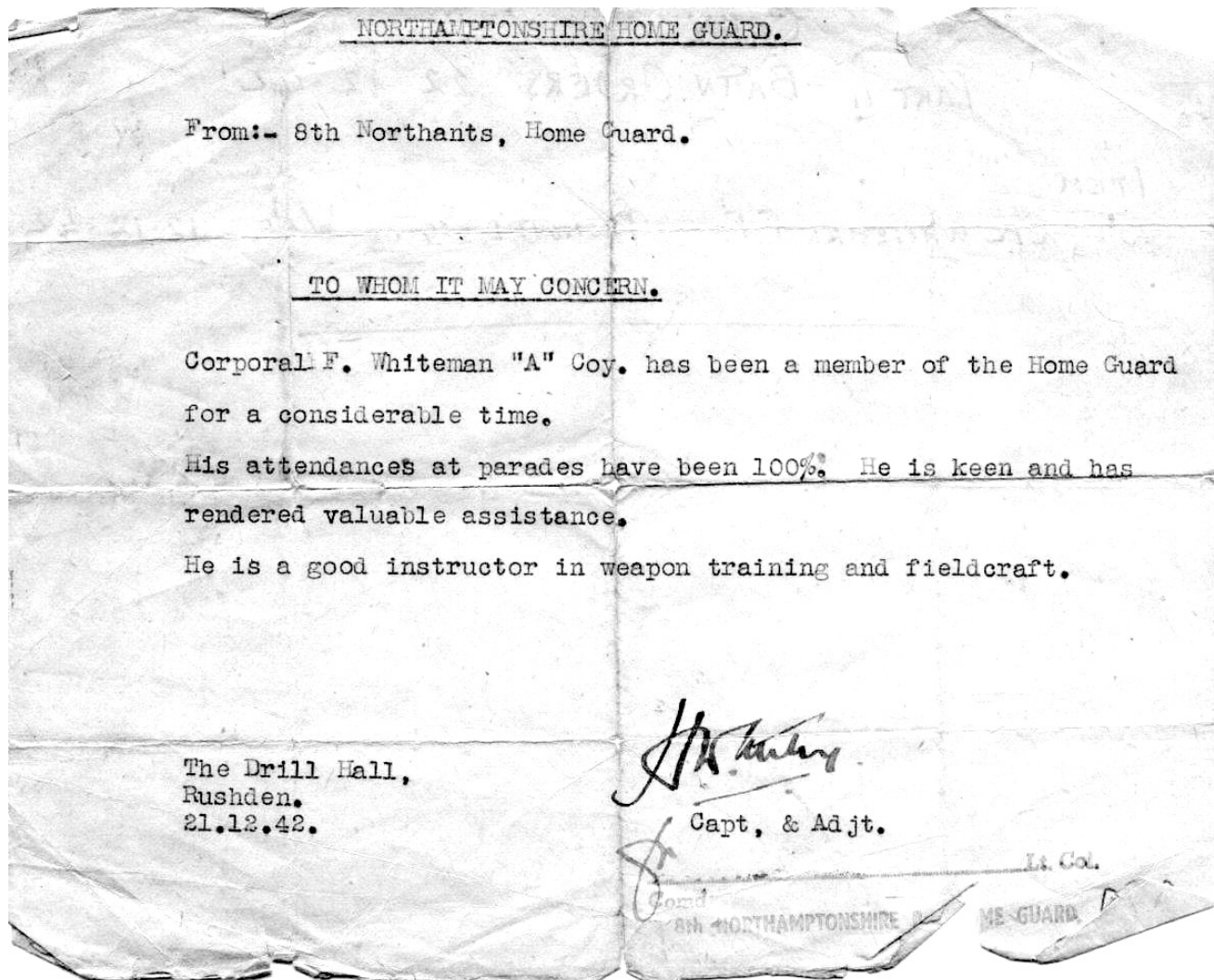
Your { Razor,
Gas Mask,
National Registration Identity Card,
Ration Book. *Medical Grade Card (N.S. 55)*

2. Uniform and personal kit will be issued to you after joining H.M. Forces. A kit that you take with you should not exceed 15 lbs. in total weight and should be limited to an overcoat, change of underclothes, stout pair of boots, and personal kit, such as hair-brush, tooth-brush, soap and towel.
3. Before you leave to join your Unit you should take or send (or ask your employer to send) your Unemployment Book (including Exempt Persons Book) to the nearest Local Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The Local Office should be informed why the book is being surrendered. You should keep a note of the number of the book.
4. If you are sick and unable to travel, you must obtain a certificate from your doctor and send it by post to the Officer Commanding the Unit which you have been ordered to join, at the address given on the Enlistment Notice overleaf. The Officer Commanding may grant you sick leave, so that you can join as soon as you are fit to do so.
5. If circumstances suddenly arise, such as the illness of your wife, or a relative, which make you wish to apply for leave to delay joining for a few days, you must write to the Officer Commanding the Unit which you have been ordered to join, giving a full explanation of the circumstances which have arisen and which make it necessary for you to apply to delay your joining. The Officer Commanding may, if he thinks fit, grant you leave or absence for a reasonable period so that you can settle your private affairs.
6. If you are granted sick leave or leave of absence by the Officer Commanding, your travelling warrant should be returned once to the Ministry of Labour and National Service Office from which it was issued with a letter giving the reason for its return. You should retain this Enlistment Notice and the Postal Order for four shillings. A fresh travelling warrant, for use during the period of sick leave or leave of absence expires, will be issued by the Officer Commanding your Unit.
7. You must understand that you will be deemed to have been enlisted from the date on which you are required to present yourself to your Unit and unless you have obtained sick leave or leave of absence as explained above, failure to join your Unit on the appointed date will make you absent and you will then be liable to be arrested and brought before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE HOME GUARD, INFORM THE O.C. OF YOUR HOME GUARD UNIT OF THE DATE UPON WHICH YOU ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT FOR SERVICE.

Dad's time in the Home Guard was obviously appreciated by his comrades as well as by his superiors, although where and how he had developed enough knowledge to be an instructor in weapons and "fieldcraft" I don't know.

On the back of this note there is a hand written copy from Part II Battn Orders 22-12-42: "Item 251 Cpl Whiteman F.F. promoted Sgt W.E.F. 12-12-42"



DONATION TO CPLE. F. WHITEMAN

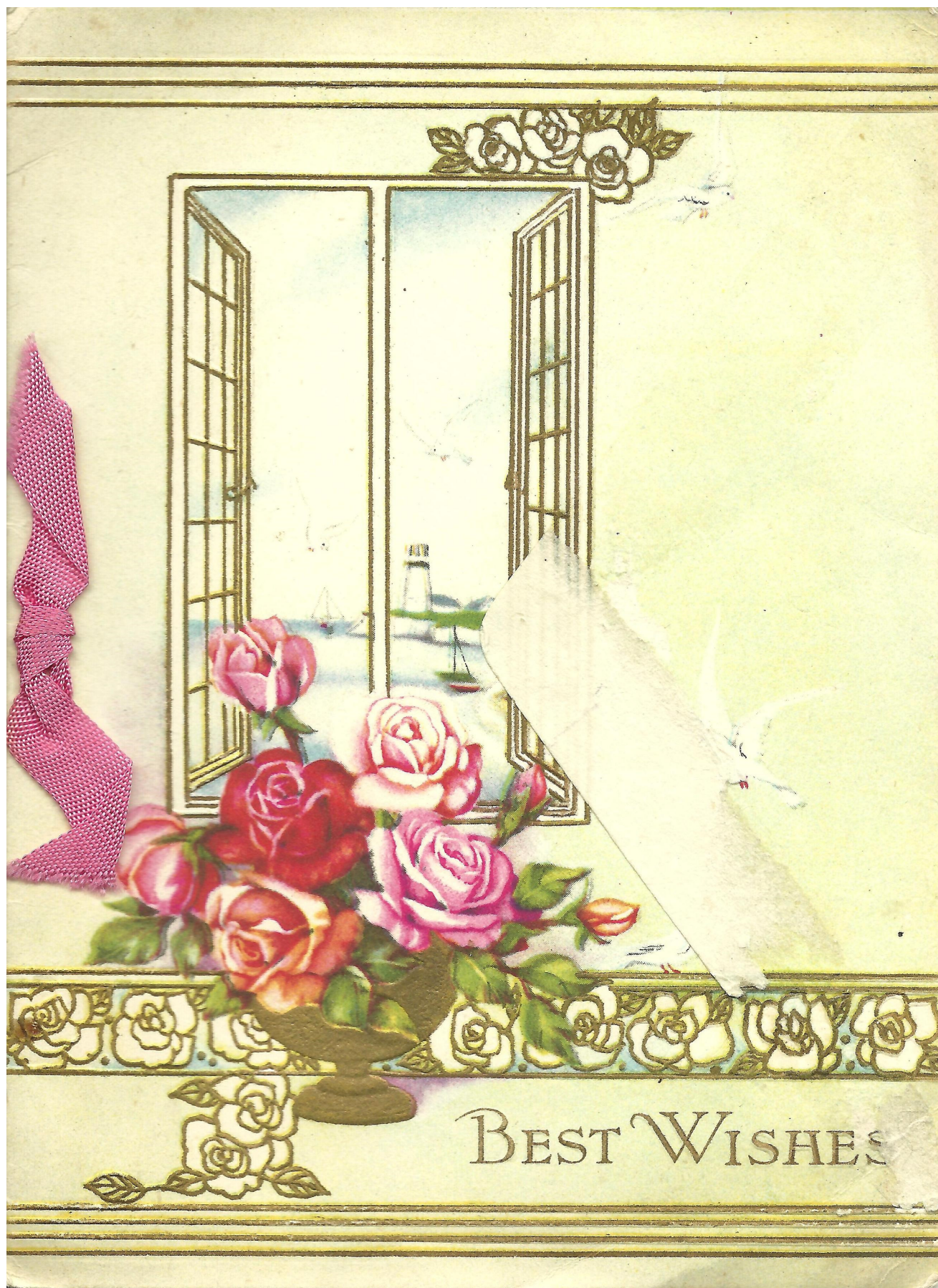
WITH THANKS & BEST WISHES FROM THE MEMBERS OF
No. III PLATOON ~~HOME~~ "A" COMPANY HOME GUARD

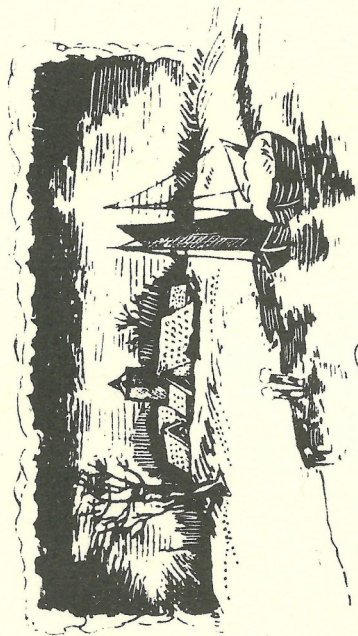
RANK	NAME	DONATION	RANK	NAME	DONATION
Pre.	BETTS W.	1/-	Pre.	KNIGHT T.	1/-
"	BETTS F.	1/-	"	PETTIT C.	1/-
"	BATES R.	1/-	"	PETTIT S.	1/-
"	CHAMBERS E.	1/-	"	RICHARDS G.	1/-
"	GOX H.	1/-	"	RICH R.	1/-
"	DAMS G.	1/-	"	TURNER J.	1/-
"	EADY R.	1/-	"	WATTS J.	1/-
"	GROOM E.	1/-	"	WEBB J.	1/-
"	HALL E.	1/-	"	YORK C.R.	1/-

Dear Frank

This is just a try to show some of
appreciation for all you've done for us. Thanks very
much for everything & the best of luck to you in
your new phase of life, hope you won't forget to call
at Headquarters when on leave. Best wishes
No. 3 Boys.

1942 Christmas card from dad to mum





Best Wishes
for Christmas

For my Dear Wife on our
17TH Wedding Anniversary

all my love
From Frank
X X X
X X X

With Hearty
Good Wishes.

May Christmas for you
bring the pleasures,
That make home with

happiness ring,

And with you all the while,

may Good Fortune smile,

To make you enjoy everything.

1943

For dad this was a year spent in training at various camps around Britain.

27th January	No.2 Training centre, Blyth
8th February	2nd Operator Training Battalion, Royal Signals, Prestatyn
22nd to 26th Feb	5 days compassionate leave
10th & 11th Apr	48 hours leave
30th Apr 6th May	7 days privilege leave
<i>13th May</i>	<i>Germans in North Africa surrender</i>
5th June	1st Operator Training battalion, Royal Signals, Catterick
29th June 5th July	7 days compassionate leave
12th July	Mustered out Operator Wireless and Line
17th July	2nd Operator Training Battalion, Royal Signals, Catterick
20th August	Re-mustered Operator Wireless and Line BIII
25th Aug 1st Sep	7 days privilege leave
29th August	80th Division signals
4th September	48th Division signals
11th to 25th Sep	Embarkation leave
26th September	Joyce's 7th birthday





Dad: *Imagine a shed full of grown men chanting things like “There are fairies at the bottom of my garden”.*

(The Signals vocalised Morse code as “dit” and “dah” for dots and dashes, presumably the above was an example of learning a rhythmic sequence)



1943 Christmas card from dad to mum

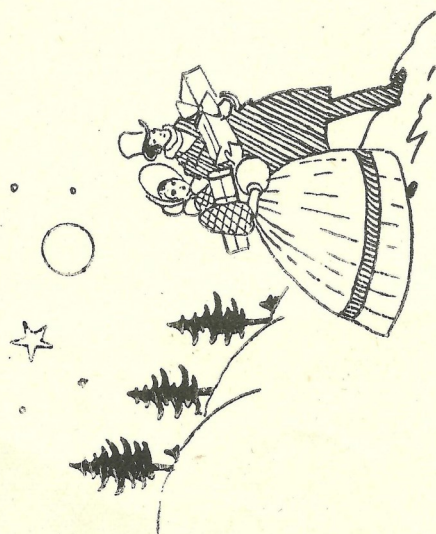


Such happy thoughts
 I have of you
 In my heart the whole
 year through,
 May all your life with
 Love be blest,
 But this day more than
 all the rest!

A Merry Christmas

To my Darling Wife
 and my little folks
 Lots of Love Dad

C. M. / T. M.



Birthday card from Pete to dad



Communication with troops abroad was by letter and "Airgraph". In the latter users filled in a form which was photographed and the film flown to its destination where the photographs were printed out and distributed. Airgraphs cost 3d against an airmail letter which cost 6d.



9th July 1943 Start of invasion of Sicily

17th Aug 1943 Sicily captured



Uncle Len was dad's younger brother serving in the Royal Navy, I think he was something to do with landing craft and worked in combined operations units. He had married in 1942.

25th October Embarked U.K.
 28th Nov 1943 Disembarked Bombay then went Mhow Signals camp
 16th Dec 1943 H.Q. Special Forces (cover name for the Chindits)

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this panel. The address must NOT be typewritten.

Greetings

MRS. C. WHITEMAN
 118, ST. RINGEAD,
 KETTERING
 NORTHANTS.
 ENGLAND

Write the message very plainly below this line.

My Dearest,
 Don't know what's happened to the mail but haven't had any since I came up here expect I'll get a lot at once when I do have some. It's pretty near Christmas now but it won't make any difference to us hope you have a nice time at home I shall be thinking about you all the time you know that though don't you. Things look as if it won't be long before we are together again roll on the day oh dear won't it be grand to sit round the old fire again and have a good laugh at our dear little children up to their tricks. How is the cat these days quite grown up I expect hope she hasn't had any sneezes yet. Did you get rid of the rabbit after all I bet you have chopped the boxes up to haven't you. Well its tea time now so will say cheerio dear love them for me and keep smiling. Always yours
 Loving you Frank

Sender's Address: 11437036
 Sgt. Whiteman
 4 Coy. Special Forces
 Attached H.Q. Special Forces
 India Command
 Date 24/12/43

This space should not be used.

A typical postcard of the period.

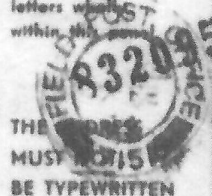


27th Jan 1944 Attached to 3rd West African Brigade
(Training in the area around Jhansi to be part of the second Chindit operation)



The badge of the Chindits, based on a mythical Burmese animal.

Write Address
in large BLOCK
letters within this
space



MRS. F. WHITEMAN
HIGH ST.
RINGSTEAD.
MR KETTERING
NORTHANTS.

Franking Officer's
Signature and
Unit Censor Stamp
Impression



Military Airgraph Service authorized by Egyptian Postal Administration

Write the message very plainly below this line

Date 5/2/44.

Sender's Address JX 319221 %N.O.I.C. MESSINA. SICILY.

Dear Nellie, Joyce and Peter.

Very pleased to get your two air letters, and to know you got the money through safe. It's good of you to keep writing to me so often, I always look forward for a letter from you. Pleased to know the children are keeping well, give them my love, I'm always thinking about them. I have both their photo on my stand at my bed side, so I mostly have a word with them. Pleased you sent me Frank's new address, hope he is keeping well and hope you hear from him regular now, it doesn't seem so bad for you then, I've sent one letter off to him, shall write again soon, I know what letters mean to you when your away. I'm keeping in the best of health all the time, but get feed up at times, with the same thing day after day, but we mustn't grumble, there are lots of worse places. The news is good all the time, I'm quite certain that it isn't going to last long at the rate things are going now for us, we shall all soon be together again. Well I haven't much more room, remember me to all at Ringstead, give Joyce and Peter a big kiss for me, so I will say Cheerio for now lots of love to you all.
x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

THIS SPACE SHOULD NOT BE USED

The address
should be
written in large
BLOCK letters
measuring at least
a quarter of an
inch in height and
width.

The address must
be
in English.

MR. F. WHITE MAN
HIGH ST, RINGSTEAD,
KETTERING,
NORTHANTS,
ENGLAND.

768356



Write the message very clearly below this line.

Please see instructions on reverse.

Nº 14390813

18/2/44

Sgt. White Man
Signal Section, 3rd West African I.B.
India Command.

My Darling,

I am sending you an airgraph
this time as we are only supposed to send
one air letter a week. I have not had any
mail for 3 or 4 days now except one from Len
the last one I had from you was written on
the 20th of Jan. I am doing fairly well got
a cold on me that I don't seem to be able
to get rid of. How are you all getting on
could you do with me to run you round
a bit now and again. How do the children get
on at school these days I bet they do. After
I won't know them but hope they will remember
me. By the way you ought to see my new table
quite a tickler wonder how you will like it.
I did want to get those photos soon but
could you send me one of the children if you
have one put it in an envelope and get an
air mail stamp Ruth will show you. This is all
for now love them for me Always loving you Frank

This space should not be used.

Operation Thursday opens on February 5th 1944 as 16 Brigade marches in



Nigerian troops loading onto a Dakota before flying into Burma.

Dad: *When they were inoculating us there weren't enough needles to use one per man. I was stood at the back of a line of Africans, all big blokes, thinking how blunt that needle was going to be before it got to me.*

Each brigade operated in a series of independent columns.

3rd West African Brigade ('Thunder')

Headquarters No. 10 column

6th Battalion Nigeria Regiment No.s 39, 66 columns

7th Battalion Nigeria Regiment No.s 29, 35 columns

12th Battalion Nigeria Regiment No.s 12, 43 columns

The signals section of each column consisted of a Sergeant, 2 operators, an electrician and 4 mules with their drivers. Dad was probably in the headquarters column which often moved in conjunction with one of the other columns.

Dad: *I once spent three days up a tree trying to get a signal.*

On 6th April troops of the 7th Nigerian flew into Aberdeen and began the march to White City. They had to halt for 3 days as they couldn't get in contact with either their H.Q. or any other columns.



A radio operator in the jungle.

As well as the radio, the equipment carried on mules included a battery, an engine to charge the battery and a 30 foot long aerial.

The Chindits food supply was in the form of American 'K' rations, designed to be easily transportable. In a bizarre coincidence, my father in law was serving as a driver with an RAF squadron in India at the time. He volunteered to be a "kicker" (they literally kicked the supplies out) on the planes dropping supplies to the Chindits and so may well have supplied my father with his food.



'K' rations

Morning	Midday	Evening
Small tin Spam	Small tin cheese	Small tin pork loaf
2 pkts biscuits	2 pkts biscuits	2 pkts biscuits
4 cigarettes	4 cigarettes	4 cigarettes
Chewing gum	Chewing gum	Chewing gum
1 pkt coffee	1 pkt lemonade	1 pkt coffee
1 pkt sweets	1 fruit bar	1 chocolate bar
2 cubes sugar	2 cubes sugar	2 cubes sugar

1944

- 5th March First troops fly in and establish "Broadway"
- 9th March 6th Nigerian Infantry fly into "Broadway"
- 29th March to 22nd June Siege of Imphal
 - 1st April 7th & 12th Nigerian Infantry begin to fly into "Aberdeen"
- 5th to 14th April Siege of Kohima, fighting in the area continues into June
- 5th May 'Aberdeen' block closed, 6th Nigerian move north
- 10th May 'White City' block closed, garrison move north
- 13th May 'Broadway' block closed, garrison move north
- 15th May Monsoon breaks
- 1st June Dad struck off strength and on X(v) list (unfit for service, I don't know if this means he was evacuated or not).
- 6th June *D-Day, the Allied invasion of France*
- 27th June Chindits take Mogaung
- 12th Aug Nigerian Infantry begin evacuation from Burma



Wounded and sick Chindits waiting for evacuation.

Those unable to carry on were evacuated by light aircraft, or in some places by boat. As dad was at Shillong by the 11th of August I presume he must have been evacuated before the rest of the Nigerian brigade were brought out.

Write the address in large BLOCK letters in the panel below.
The address must NOT be typewritten.

974000

TO:- No 143 90363
Sgmn White man
Signal Section

India Command



Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Address
11/3/44

Miss Joyce Whitman High Street Ringstead
Kettering Northants

My Dear Daddy.

Thank you very much for the
Airgraft you sent us this morning.
I was very pleased with it.

I am getting on at school, and I
got a point for doing my sums
the neatest and getting them right
And I got a point for my writing,
so I have got four points now.

Mummy says we might go to
Diddington next week if it's a nice day.

If Auntie Winnie writes back and
tell us we can go because Granny

at Diddington has gone to see Auntie
Anny because she is going to have a
baby. With lots of love from Joyce

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

This space should not be used.

MAKE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE

Aunt Annie was mum's sister and her son Leslie was born in 1944

Write the address in large BLOCK letters in the panel below.
The address must NOT be typewritten.

381398

TO: NO. 14390363.
SIGMN. WHITEMAN. F.
SIGNAL SECTION.
3RD. W. A. 6 BDE.
INDIA. COMMAND.



Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Address Mrs. F. WHITEMAN, "FERNDALE" DENFORD, KETTERING
NORTHANTS

Dear Frank,

We were very pleased to receive your airgraph. I can't write to you from camp because where we are now, we can't get airgraphs, so don't be surprised if you don't hear from me very often. I have just been over to see Nell and the children they are all getting on alright, Peter has been poorly again, he is getting a big boy he's grown a lot since I last saw him. I go back off leave Wed. time fly's while your at home. Blessio for now all the very best of Luck (Love) Ted.

This space should not be used.

MAKE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE

This airgraph is from dad's brother Ted.

Write the address in large BLOCK letters in the panel below.
The address must NOT be typewritten.

TO:- NO14390363
SGMN WHITEMAN
3rd WEST AFRICAN.I.B.
SIGNAL SECTION
INDIA COMMAND

274858



Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Address High St Ringshead Kettering Northants 2/5/44

Dear Daddy I hope you are
all right Mummy has bought
me a blazer a red one with
my pound That Uncle Len sent
me I have a red pallover to
match it yesterday was the first
of May I went round May garling
I got over a shilling then we went
to Raunds We have had a
game of saint George I was the
king and Richard Hackney was
st George We have been down
Keyston Lane this afternoon and the
soldiers have all gone away and
they have ploughed up the field
with lost of luth from your little per
Peter *****

This space should not be used.

MAKE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE

Write the address in large BLOCK letters in the panel below.
The address must NOT be typewritten.

TO:- NO 14390363
SGMN WHITEMAN
WEST AFRICAN I.B.
SIGNAL SECTION
INDIA COMMAND.

274859



Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Address Miss Joyce Whiteman, High St.
Ringstead Kettering
Northants

Dear Daddy. I hope you are quite well. Mummy has bought me a frock a pretty coloured one and a yellow cardigan coat ^{with the money} what Uncle Len sent us. I am very pleased with it. Auntie ~~and~~ Bertha and Uncle are going to have a baby I hope she will let me take it out. Monday was May Day Peter and Cyril Tilly to spent his money on chips at Raunds But when He got there the fish shop was closed so both of them had Dinner up Auntie. And auntie bought them back on the bus home from Joyce.

This space should not be used.

MAKE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE

Ted and Bertha's daughter Madeline was born in 1944.

B. O. RS. HOLIDAY HOME.
SHILLONG PASS.

No 2489 Rank SIGMAN

Name WHITEMAN,

From 11. 8. 44

Till 12. 8. 44

Hours 10.00-23.59 daily.

Signed *J. S. Peters*

Commanding B. O. RS. H. Home.

Shillong is in the north western state of Assam, not far from the Burmese border.



Aunt Bertha with Madeline, Joyce and Pete.

18th Aug 1944 Special Forces Training Signals

(There were plans for another Chindit operation)

The address should be written in large BLOCK letters measuring at least a quarter of an inch in height and wholly within this panel. → The address must NOT be typewritten.

Miss. J. WHITEMAN
HIGH ST; RINGSTEAD
KETTERING,
NORTHANTS
ENGLAND.

Corr.-04.
228311

Write the message very clearly below this line. Please see instructions on reverse.

NO 14-390363
Sender's Full name and Address. Squin Whiteman Date 21/8/44
3rd West African I.B.
Signal Section, India Command.

My Dear Daughter,

Hello Joyce my pet how are you getting on with the evacuees at home do you help your Mummy with them. I wonder if you have got the silver necklace I sent you, I have sent you a lovely hand bag this time I bet your dear old Mum will want it Bless her. It is for Christmas also Peter's knife tell him as Daddy won't be able to be there at Christmas this year but hope to next year. I want you to help your Mummy as much as you can now you are a big girl the photos are lovely and you are big children now. This is all this time will write a long letter soon so cheero my pet see you soon. Lots of love from your Daddy

This space should not be used.

The address
should be
written in large
BLOCK letters
measuring at least
a quarter of an
inch in height and
must be within
this space
The address must
NOT
be handwritten.

MR P WHITEMAN
HIGH ST; RINGSTEAD
KETTERING
NORTHANTS
ENGLAND

228312

Write the message very clearly below this line.

Please do not write on the back of the card.

NOT 4390363

Gym Whiteman

21/8/44

3RD West African LB.

Signal Section. India Command.

My dear little Peter.

I am writing to tell
you that I am alright and I hope
you are as well. Do you look after your
Mummy and sister while I am away
give them a big kiss for me will you. Mummy
says you have got some little evacuees
living with you now, how do you like
them. I have sent you a sheath knife
this time so I hope you will be careful
and look after it also the watch which
I hope you have got by now. I must
write you a long letter soon hope to
see you all before long so cheerio my
little son be good to Mummy.

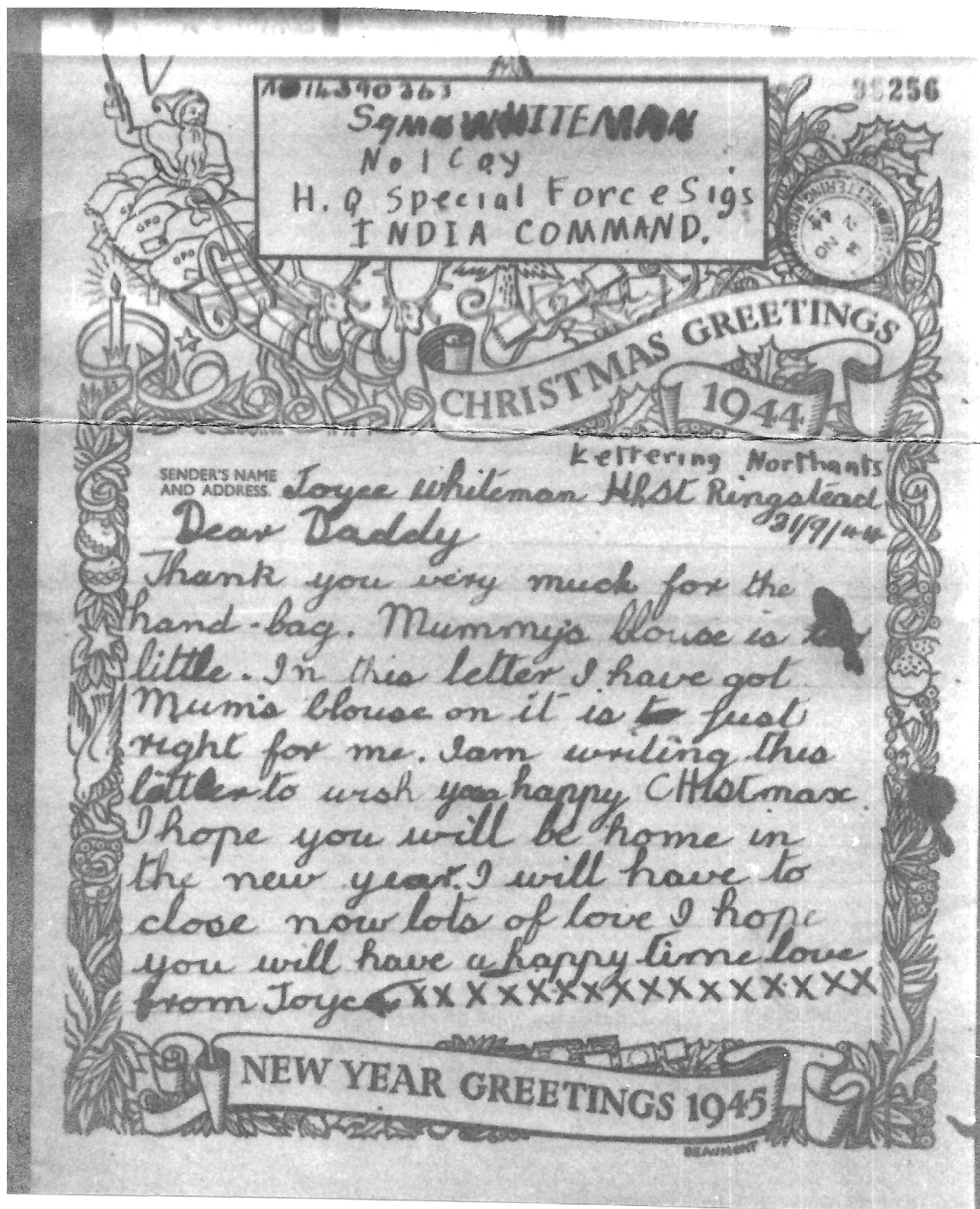
Lots of love from your Daddy

This space should not be used.

Dad mentions evacuees in this airgraph. I think mum said they didn't stay very long. They were probably part of the renewed evacuation as the V bombs began to be used against London.

27th Nov 1944

Passed trade training, re-mustered Operator Wireless and Line
Group B Class II



279671

NO. 14390363.
SGM. WHITEMAN.
NO. 1 COY.
H.Q. SPECIAL FORCES SIGNALS
INDIA COMMAND



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
1944

SENDER'S NAME
AND ADDRESS. Mrs G. SALE. 13 COLEMAN. ST. RAUNDS. NORTHANTS.

Dear Frank,

Heres wishing you the
'compliments of the season'
and may the next find us all
together enjoying a real family
Xmas.

Lots of love
Coral + Gerald. XXXX.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS 1945

BEAUMONT

Coral was dad's older sister and Gerald was her husband.

The address should be written in large BLOCK letters measuring at least a quarter of an inch in height and wholly within this panel →

The address must NOT be type-written.

MRS F. WHITEMAN
HUGH ST., RINGSTEAD
KETTERING,
NORTHS,
ENGLAND

Code 404

Date Stamp

283739

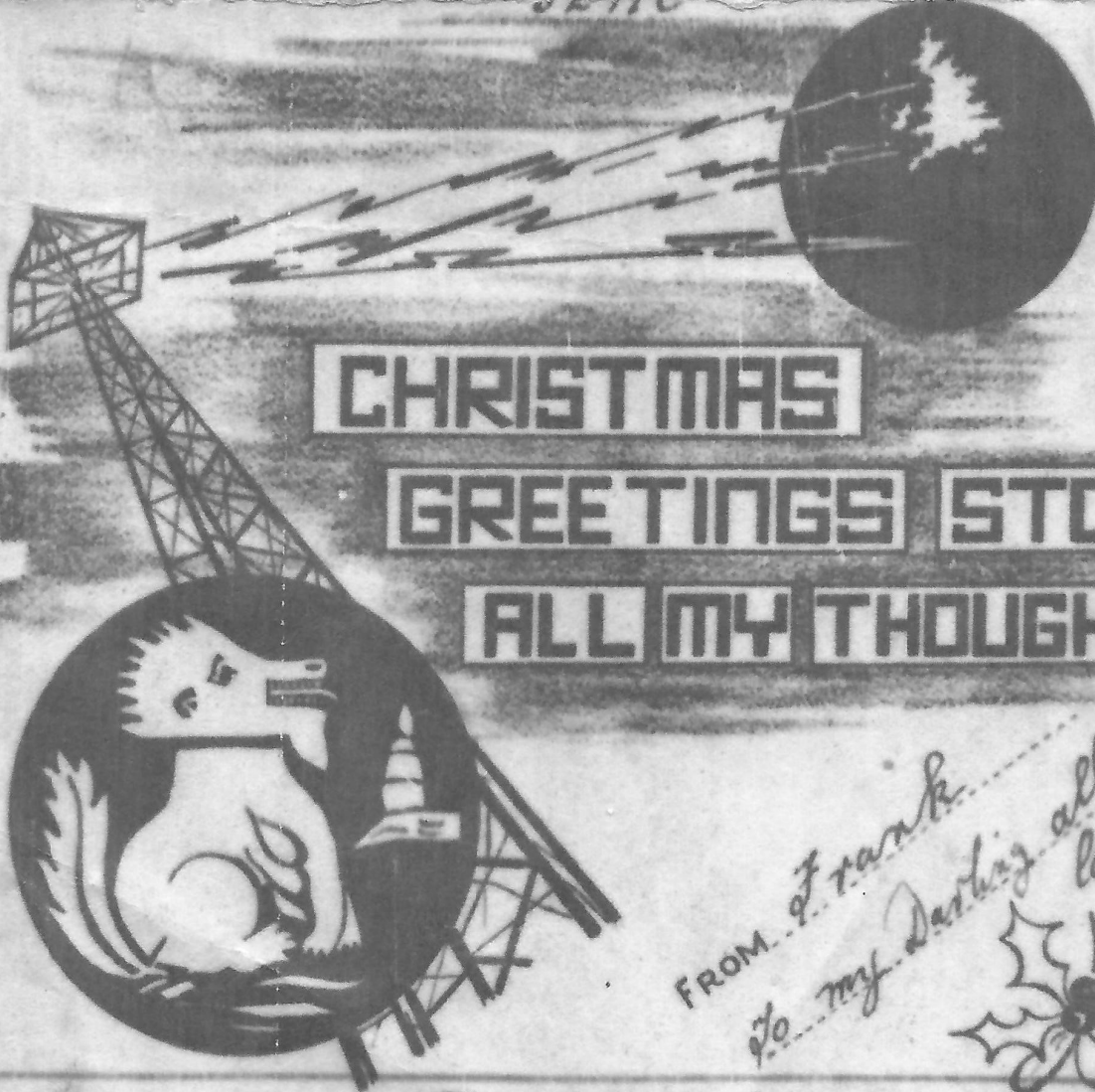
Write the message very clearly below this line.

Follow your instructions on reverse.

Sender's full name and address

NO 14 390363
Sgt. J. Whiteman
Special Force Sig.
S.F. 110

Date 10/11/44



CHRISTMAS

GREETINGS STOP

ALL MY THOUGHTS

FROM Frank
to my Darling all my
love



This space should not be used.

The address should be written in large BLOCK letters measuring at least a quarter of an inch in height and wholly within this panel

The address must NOT be typewritten.

MR. P. WHITEMAN
HIGH ST; RINGSTEAD,
KETTERING,
NORTHANTS,
ENGLAND

QRTY-66.

Date Stamp

438395

Write the message very clearly below this line.

Please see instructions on reverse

Sender's full name and Address.

Nº 14 390363
Sydney Whiteman
Special Force Sigs
S.F.A.C.

Date 10/11/44



WISHES YOU
A
MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM DADDY
TO
MY SON PETER
Lots of love and kisses

This space should not be used.

NO 114390363
SGMN WHITEMAN
NO 1 COY
H.Q. SPECIAL FORCE SIGS
INDIA COMMAND.

98257

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
1944

SENDER'S NAME
AND ADDRESS.

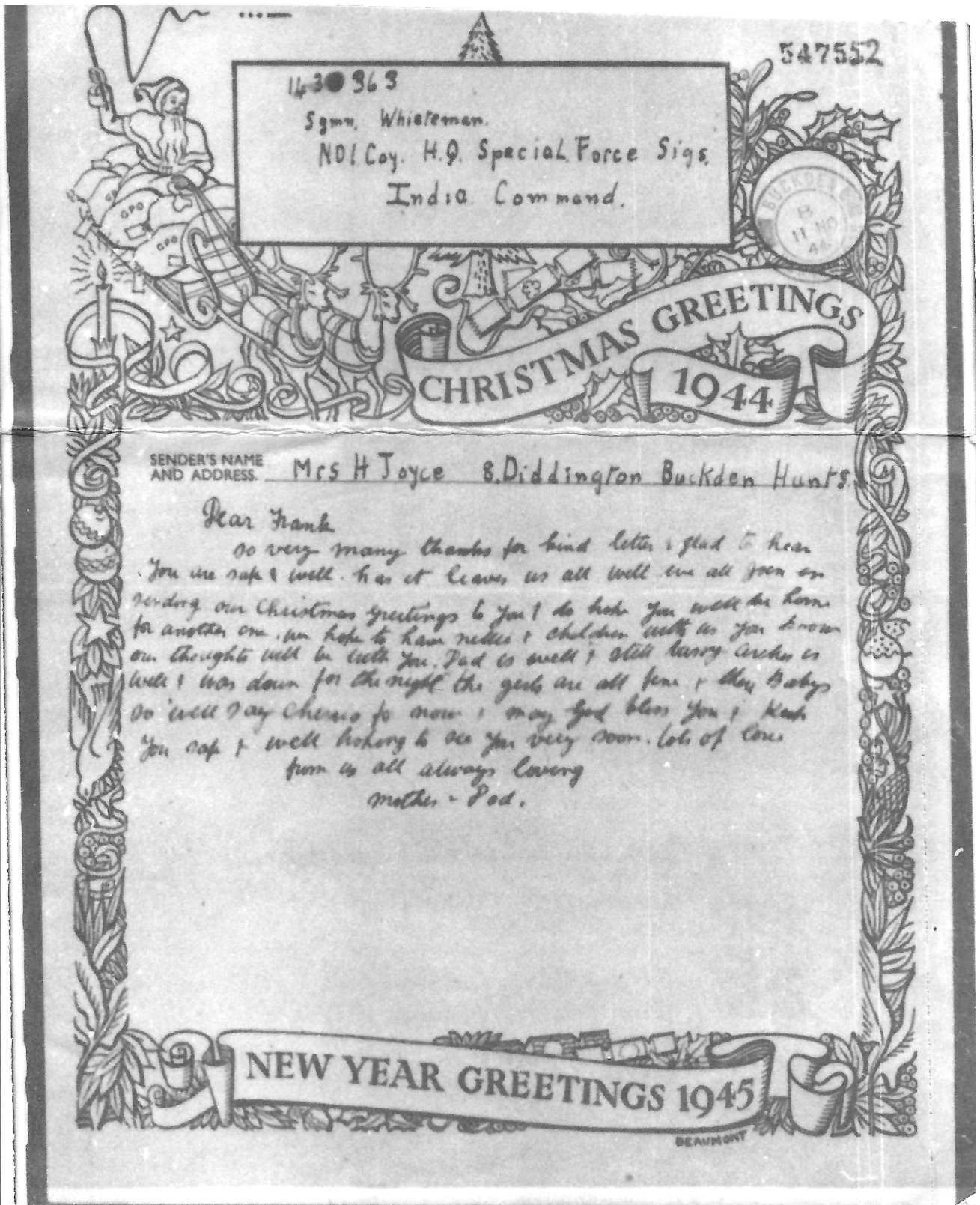
P. Whiteman High St. Ringstead Kettering
Northants

Dear Daddy XXXXXXXXX
I hope XXXXXXXXX
you are all right

Thank you very much for the
sheath knife I was nt half
pleased with it I shall be able to
play cow boys now with
Richard I am sending you
this air graft to wish you
a happy christmas and hope
you will be home soon lots of
from your little pet Peter love

NEW YEAR GREETINGS 1945

Pete was now 6 years old and these days a knife seems a strange present to send such a young child.



This airgraph is from dad's mother in law.

Write the address in large BLOCK letters in the panel below.
The address must NOT be typewritten.

TO:— MRS. F. WHITEMAN.

HIGH ST.

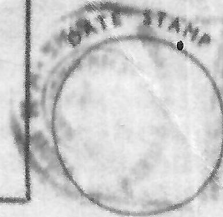
RINGSTEAD

NR KETTERING

NORTHANTS

786711

ENG.



Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Name & Address... *F. Whiteman, 4319281, H.M.S. HAMILCAR, 63 P.O. London*

**SPEEDY GREETINGS
FROM**

*Wishing Nellie, Joyce, and
Peter, a Merry Xmas, and
Happy New Year, and
hoping to see
you soon XXXX*



This space should not be used.

MAKE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE.

H.M.S. Hamilcar was a shore base for combined operations.

962068

TO:- NO 14390363
SGMN WHITEMAN
SPECIAL FORCES SIGS
S. E. A. C.



10/1/45

Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Name & Address

Sender's Name & Address. Miss Joyce Whitman High St Kingston
Dear Daddy. Kettering Northants

I hope you are all right. I had your
autograph this morning But xmas
I had, sweets, chocolate, a ship
ping rope, (but no oranges but we
should have liked some off those trees
which you said) sewing box, two
paint books a like, and a paint
box, a game called, Puzzles and
Problems, a book called The Monster
Book for children. Micky Mouse
book a calendar a side bag, a hand
kerchief and a necklace and 15 shilling
in money There's a lot for you, We
did laugh when you said that
some of the men chopped off the
wings of the ducks. Well lots of
love X X X X X

~~X X X X X X X~~ source ~~X X X X X~~

This space should not be used.

MAKE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE

Write the address in large BLOCK letters in the panel below.
The address must NOT be typewritten.

161220

TO:- NO 14340363
SGMN WHITEMAN
SPECIAL FORCE SIGS
S. E. A. C.



18/1/45

Write the message very plainly below this line.

Sender's Name & Address. Master P. Whiteman High St. Kingstead.
18/1/45. Kettering Northants.

Dear Daddy

I hope you are well
I had a Nursery Rhymes and
a Fairy Tales and Roll in Pennys
and two boxes of Paints and two
Paint books and a Monster book
and another book, and Timpo foot
ball and Ding Dong foot ball,
and Mickys clock we have got
Some oranges we went to
see aunty Coral yesterday
but we should have liked to
have picked some off that tree
We have still got Twinkle the
cat uncle Jerry made me
an aeroplane From your little Pet
Peter x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

MAKE SURE THAT THE ADDRESS IS WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE

The address should be written in large BLOCK letters, measuring AT LEAST A QUARTER OF AN INCH IN HEIGHT and wholly within this panel →

The address MUST NOT be typewritten.

CORR-64(15)

To M^{rs} J and M^{rs} P WHITEMAN
HUGH ST, RINGSTEAD,
KETTERING,
NORTHANTS,
ENGLAND.

457910

Write the message very clearly below this line.

Please see instructions on reverse.

Sender's full name and address N^o 14 390363, Syon Whitman Date 29/1/45
Spel Force Sqz, S.E. AL.

Dear Joyce and Peter,

I had your letter yesterday Joyce and I was very pleased with it you will have to help Peter write one now my pet. you did have a lovely lot of things for Xmas didn't you I hope your old Daddy will be there next year. Mummy tells me all about you two and what you get up to but I do love to get a letter from you as well. I have had your photos come and I think you are both growing ever so much and you both look ever so smart too. Little boys and girls out here dont wear any shoes and only an old bit of cloth round them I bet old Jack Frost would nip them if they came to Ringstead now wouldn't he. Well my little pets there isnt much more room so love Mummy for me and help her all you can dont you Daddy will be home soon.

Mummy just wrote } at 7a my pets
and said Peter } Lots of love and kisses Daddy
had sent a letter

This space should not be used.

25th Mar 1945

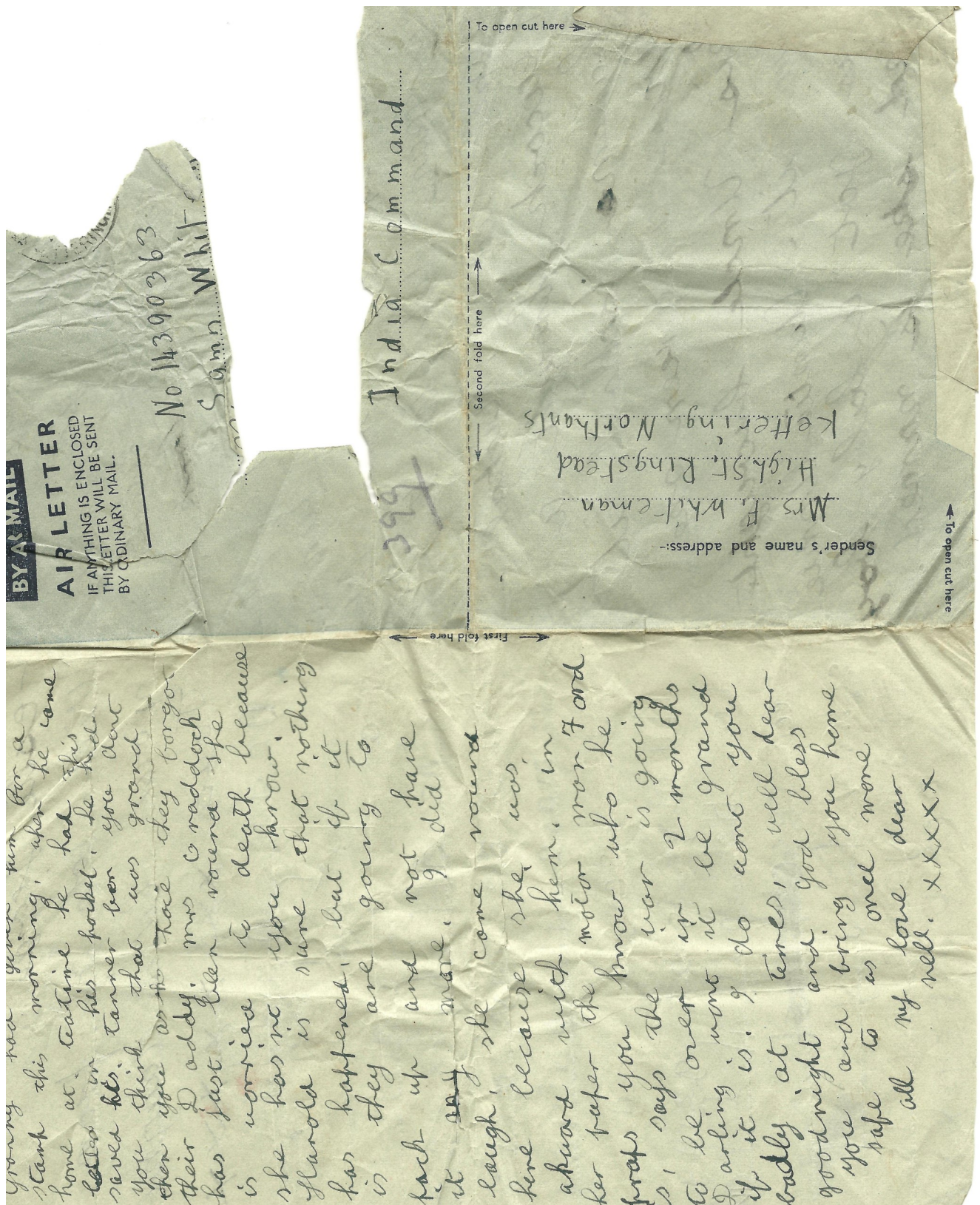
Return from concessional area (no longer in war zone). Dad may have been stationed in Imphal up to this date.

31st Mar 1945

Special Forces Training, 202 Ind Freq Mon Section

7th May 1945

Germany surrenders



11th May 1945 H.Q. Special Forces, T.O.S. India Command

6th Aug 1945 Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima

9th Aug 1945 Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki

Daddy
hope you are
get. I have
another ~~to~~ tooth
We have
the dear Daddy
Mum
like a
a man did in the
Paper. did Michael
Peacock brought a
banana school it
was a green one
his Uncle brought
him it. Auntie Annie
has got a baby boy
and she is named it
Leslie George.
With lots of from
your little daughter
Joyce. xxxxxx
uncle Alf has the
name today most
Mr mase is putting
dolls seeds
Mummy is not going
to Has pit a I have
been close
school to day
from you
pet pet
xxx

N^o 16-390363

Sgt. W. H. H. H.
202 7th Mo. Sec.
Eastern Ind. Sgts
India Command.

20/8/45

My Darling,

I had 4 letters today so have something to answer now. Glad to say my feet are about better now dear & only want this strain to clear up and all be O.K. once more. Glad to read Peter had a nice lot of cards for his birthday, I got his letter today it was in 2 envelopes what happened did he forget to put it all in. It sounds as if that Zoo is getting quite a nice place expect the Buddies will want to take me when I get back home once more. I'm very pleased

to read you are getting my letter better now and it's a devil when you go over a week without one makes you think all manner of things. I was quite busy during the waiting period of the post ramblers used to take all the news from Reuters mouse you know, so you can guess we were well up with all the goings on. You mention seeing Shillong on the map well it's nearly 1 year since I left there & been quite a way since then I was in Imphal for a long time. Have you guessed where I am at present we shall soon be able to write where we are. Hope the photo's turn out O.K. I would love to have seen them, were they sky.

SECURITY: THINK - BEFORE YOU WRITE !!

BY AIR MAIL

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS CARD WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL

"BLUE TRIANGLE"

AIR LETTER



I. A. F. F.—1083 (TRIANGLE)

Mrs. J. Whitman
High St. Ringstead
Tatterton
Northants,
England.

You ask me what I think
to the new bomb, it is twice
daring but having been here
2 years and seeing some of
the results of the gas, I can
only say its a pity a far more
werent used on them as they
are nothing more than savages
No darling I dont hear nothing
of it as I told you I got
sent back here to this awful
little job (important!) but no
excitement. There has just been
a bit on the news about
feeding up demob & perhaps
it wont be very long now
anyhow keep hoping love them
for me ohm up dear see
you soon.

X X X I'm always yours
X X X Loving you
X X X
X X X Frank

FOR USE OF H. M. FORCES ONLY

Written in English (Language)

No. 1000000000

Sender's Rank Sgt

Name Whitman

NOTE: This airmail letter card need not be censored
Regimentally. It is subject to censorship at the Base.

The following certificate must be signed by the writer:—
I certify on my honour that the contents
of this airmail letter card refer to nothing but
private or family matters.

Signature J. J. Whitman

1000000000—25-45—20-2-45—G 2917

2nd Sep 1945

Japan surrenders

October 1945

28 days LIAP (Leave In Addition Python) which was leave to the U.K.

LIAP-Oct Secret

A. F. W-3060.
(Modified for India.)

Rank No. 14890363

Army Signal WHITEMAN, F

Unit Eastern Command Signals

Authority for embarkation
HQ 303 Area 57514A (orig) of 18 Sep 45

Port of embarkation _____

Name of ship _____

Destination _____

Unit to be joined _____

P. E. O.

ہر کارڈ سوا فرجی افسر کے کسی کو
بھی کسی حال میں تمس دیکھنا جائے

1. This card will be issued in
duplicate to each individual proceeding
overseas with a party of less than 5
others of his unit and will not on any
account be shown to other than an
authorised military authority.

2. It will be handed to the Move-
ment Control Officer at port of embar-
cation.

یہ کارڈ سیوا فرجی افسر کے کسی
کو بھی کسی حال میں نہ دیکھنا
چاہیے :

Falcon-449/9/G 241 D/1-5-45-2,00,000.

R.A.F. FORM
1185

R.A.F. TRANSPORT COMMAND

NAME WHITEMAN, F

To 14890363
LT. 173.

AIRCRAFT No. K.L. 668

WEIGHT 24

No. 77072

LIAP - OCT

I. A. F. M-1240.
Revised Edn. 1929.

**Health Certificate for Officers, Other Ranks, Families and Civilians
Embarking in Government Vessels or Hired Transports.**

(See Movement Instructions, India (Provisional), 1937, para. 250.)

Station

H.O. Ec

Date

2 30.9.45

I certify that on the occasion of their departure from (Station)

Corps.

the individuals noted on the margin who are proceeding to (port) are free from infectious disease, and are in all respects medically fit for embarkation. As far as can be ascertained, none of them has been recently in contact with any case of infectious disease.

Strength.

Officers.
Officers' wives
Officers' Children.
Officers' Servants.
Warrant and N. C. Os. and men.
Women.
Children.
Followers.

(Medical officers will invariably state whether or not infectious disease is prevalent in the station from which the individuals are proceeding. They will also remark what special precautions, if any, should be taken to safeguard the health of the troops on the journey.)

Charles. P. D. or P/O.
ATTN: Haripur
11/10/45

Signature of M. O. Capt
IAME.

Signature of C. O.

INSTRUCTIONS.

1. When this certificate applies to an individual or to a party of less than 10 the names will be entered on the reverse, and the certificates will be handed over to the embarkation medical officer at the port. In the case of organized drafts a nominal roll on the reverse is not required as the draft conducting officer will be in possession of nominal rolls.
2. In the case of units and drafts, the certificate will be prepared by the officer in medical charge and countersigned and forwarded by the O. C. unit to the Commandant of the Rest Camp or to the Embarkation Commandant as the case may be. One copy is required for each of the following occasions:—
 - (1) Immediately before departure from the original station.
 - (2) On leaving a station at which rail is taken, when part of the journey has been performed by route march.
 - (3) From each halting place or rest camp on route at which a halt of more than 72 hours has been made.
3. In cases where more than 3 days have elapsed from date of signature of this certificate, it must be endorsed by a Government Medical Officer within 3 days of embarkation.
4. No officer's or soldier's wife within three months of her confinement is to be certified medically fit for embarkation. In the case of an Officer's wife a written statement on this point from the lady or her husband may be accepted by the Medical Officer.
5. For an Officer's family the certificate of a civil practitioner may be accepted.
6. The Medical Officer or other person in charge will report immediately by wire any outbreak of infectious or epidemic disease which may occur in the party during the journey, in accordance with Regs. for the Army in India, para 873 and Movement Instructions, India. 1937 para 69.

Important Notice to all personnel arriving by air from abroad
KEEP THIS CARD

AND IF YOU FALL ILL WITHIN 21 DAYS AFTER ARRIVAL IN THIS COUNTRY, SHOW IT TO A DOCTOR (CIVIL OR SERVICE) AND TELL HIM WHERE YOU HAVE COME FROM.

Dangerous infectious diseases occur in the countries in which you have been serving. You may have contracted one of these diseases before emplaning but, owing to the speed of air travel, it may not develop until after your arrival in the United Kingdom.

It is essential for the protection of yourself, your family and your friends, and to prevent widespread epidemics of diseases such as smallpox and typhus in this country, that any illness from which you may suffer during the 21 days after your arrival should receive immediate medical attention.

Arrived at RAF BOURN CAMBRIDGE.....Air Station
 On 15-10-45.....



Brigadier Abdy Ricketts pointing out something to John MacFarlane on Hill 60. By John is his orderly, behind him an unknown officer or NCO.

This photograph of the Brigadier in command of the 3rd West Africans illustrates the level of informality adopted by the Chindits on campaign. At the camps where they were recovering signs had to be put up reminding them to salute.



A very posed photograph of dad showing off his Chindit badge.

23rd Oct 1945 G.H.Q. (1) Southern India Monitor Station
Jalahalli (a suburb of Bangalore)

I.A.F.Z.—2030.

AIR TRANSIT CAMP.....**HQ. MOVEMENT CONTROL**.....(Place)
(AIR TROOPING)
MAURIPUR.

INDIVIDUAL MOVEMENT ORDER

To...14290363.....Sgt. WHITEMAN.....(No., Rank & Name)

You are posted to...202 Frey Mon Sec.....(Unit/Formation)

at...Calcutta (at F. Camp).....(Place)

under authority of...WIL-SEC 0980/12 MS CO-ORD DATED 2-6-45.....(G.H.Q. Posting Order)

and will proceed by rail direct/via...CHAKUCIA.....(Place)

air terminal.

No.....

Date...27/11/45.....

.....[Signature].....
O.C. H.Q. M.C. (Air Trooping)
HQ. MOVEMENT CONTROL
(AIR TROOPING)
.....**MAURIPUR**.....Air Transit Camp.

To date I have been unable to find out anything about what was the purpose of the Monitor station or what dad's role may have been there. Whatever it was it kept him away from home for a year after the war ended.

Dad: *There were riots and marches in support of the independence movement and we had to stand in front of the government buildings being sworn and spat at by the crowds.*

THIS PORTION TO BE RETAINED BY THE HOLDER DURING HIS JOURNEY BUT IS VALID ONLY WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY A CHECK TICKET ISSUED BY THE RAILWAY. BOTH THIS FORM AND THE CHECK TICKET MUST BE SURRENDERED AT DESTINATION.

Office Seal of
Issuing Officer.

Serial No. of Warrant

26893

*Single Journey Soldier's Ticket.
Return

From: *Har* To: *Bagpale* Via: *W + 10*

and ~~RETURN~~ Class *1st/2nd/Inter/3rd Mail or Express/3rd Passenger.

†Return Journey available up to.....

Authorised Baggage.....

‡Check Ticket No. *1184* Date of Issue *9/12/01*

Office seal of Booking Clerk at
starting station.

[Signature]
Signature of Booking Clerk.

* Strike out whichever is inapplicable.

† Strike out if not applicable.

‡ All particulars in this ticket portion, which is detachable, to be filled up by Issuing Officer, except those marked to be filled in by stations.

NOTE :— Baggage in excess of authorised weight, must be paid for in cash and ordinary luggage ticket obtained and retained during the journey as evidence of payment.

[P.T.O.]

14340363

Egmont Whiteman
Southern India Mtr Str
C/o S. I. C. (I)
Bangalore
India.

27/5/46

My Darling,
I had the Journal today with the bit in about Len's baby Linda Elizabeth eh, not quite what I expected but I bet it knows who picked it. We have the monsoon here with a vengeance now and there is another terrific storm on as I write this. They had a football match on but had to abandon it as you are soon over your foot tops when it rains here. I got elected chairman of the football committee now they have stuck me on the one for messing, I reckon it must be because I tick a lot. I've just been wandering how they go on courting out here when it rains for such a time, I came to see you in some storms but nothing like these. Have they arranged any trips to the sea side yet, I've got 30/- in English money up to now so if you need any let me know and you can have it?

I had a lovely dream the other night
you were just out the bath, Joyce
would certainly have had her wish if it
was real (my what a do) it was grand,
I'll tell Joyce I will write to her next
as I haven't had time lately, but expect
they are busy on their likes, by the way
did you get the one off Gerry. Do you
remember seeing a picture called Jew Sars
before we were married, I well I'm just
reading the book and its pretty good.
How are Jack and Helen getting along.
no sign of them getting a house of
their own yet I expect. Hope Jack watches
his step till they do get one or that
would be a do wouldn't it? Well
darling I'm stuck for news, I like a letter
to answer and I haven't had one since
I wrote the last I expect I'll get 2 tomorrow
Love them for me dear chin up see you soon.

12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

x y z x y z P

xxxxx morning

Always yours dear

Love you

Frank.

14411313 Sigmn Shant.

No 2 Coy

34 Ind. Corps Sigs

S.E.A.C.

24/6

Dear Frank,

I'm sorry I haven't written before this, but you know what I'm like as regards correspondence. Everybody here is in the best of health, awaiting on report and demob. Old Sammy is ticking off the days & also Smudge Smith, Khasi Clark etc. Alf Brown had a letter from Dave Gordie this morning. He is still near Bombay but doesn't like the mob very much. He got on a weekend set one day & found he was working Joe Tisdale. He is at GHQ (i) Sigs at Delhi. Gordie's mother in law is going strong yet & you would laugh at it if you read his letter.

They started leave here but it is the usual story. One minute Bombay is in and the next it isn't. I took leave as it was the only kind available. I had a pretty good time, quiet, like the last one, but just the job. It was only a week, but gave me a nice little rest.

I expect you will wonder where we are by the address. It's still the same place, worse luck. Have you heard from Bill Jennings at all. I haven't & was wondering how the snaps came out. Knobby Clarke just came in and wants to know how you are going on with the chics.

We been getting my cigarettes through very well just now. We had four lots through since I came here. One lot I got through this week were from some female we never heard of. Still, the cigarette was the main thing. I got two lots at one go, which was just the job. One of Players and one of Senior Service. We been having a grand orgy by myself.

We had a dance about two weeks ago & there were quite a few VAD's there who had only been sent here 48 hours at that time. Bay, did

we grip them. He had more than a strangle hold on them before the night was out. Dixey managed to get on quite well with one, despite the fact that he doesn't dance. I had a good time there, especially as the atmosphere was very reminiscent of Blighty.

We've had some schemes here, but they haven't lasted over 48 hours yet. I've been on RT all the time and I'm cheered off with it now. Cherry is still acting the twerp with his blighty ideas. Treats a 399 like a .22 so you can imagine how we feel about it.

We have had some ENSA shows in the camp. Generally they are just about plain filth, but I saw one that was very good. We forgotten the title now, but it is definitely worth seeing.

Well thank, I must close now as there isn't much else to talk about. The mahatma is still going strong, but he has been away for quite a time & as per results it's been pretty shaky.

Well for the present

Cheers

Vic

14390363

Sgt. Whiteman,
Southern India Mts Str,
C/o S.I.C. (I)
Bangalore
India.

25/6/40

My Darling,

I thought I'd be sure and get a letter today as I've only had 2 this month, I can't make out where they have gone to. Well it's nearly the end of June so I've not much longer to do in the army 10 or 11 weeks at the most so should have leave in the next few weeks. I start work again tonight after my leave I didn't really want to do any more. I read in the papers about the shortage of soap at home so have started to lay a stock in its called 'Hamam' and its the best I've ever had even in England. How do you feel about having me home after all this time do you think it will be a strain for you. Are you interested in football at all as I should like to go and see Northampton a bit when I'm on leave and the season will be just started when I get home. Len never answered

²/ my letter so I presume he is pretty
busy. I only heard from one of my
mates who went home Wally never wrote
and I never had an answer from the
Signals Association so altogether its been a blank
time. Its died out yet and Trevor, I
know some chaps who went from here and
were demobbed 3 weeks before their time, be
lieve if I was wouldn't it? Well dear
hope this letter doesn't bore you too much
but its a job to know what to write,
I mean I could keep telling you how much I
love you but I know that loves you too so
will say ~~cheer~~ sweetheart love them for me
see you very soon now.

XXXXXX X 3
XXXXXX V X X 7
XX XX XX XX Summary.

Always yours dear,
Loving you
Frank.



Unfortunately there are no names on the back of this photo, or any clue as to where and when it was taken. That looks like dad second from the right in the back row with his hand on his mate's shoulder.

Southern India Monitor Station,
S.T.C., Bangalore.
Dated, 20 JUNE 1946.

RELEASE TESTIMONIAL.

14390363 Signm. Whiteman, F.

Military Conduct: Exemplary

I cannot testify high enough to the character of F.F. Whiteman. Possessing an honest, trustworthy and completely reliable nature, his work has always been of the highest standard.

The success and happy spirit of this unit is due in a very large degree to the organising abilities and unselfish and sportsmanlike example set by him. At work and play F.F. Whiteman leads the field.

W. R. Signals.
Lieut. R. Signals.
Offr. Com. Southern India Monitor Station.

MOVEMENT ORDER.

SIMS/17/8.

Southern India Monitor Station,
c/o S.T.C., Jalahalli Camp,
Nr. Bangalore, (Mysore State).
Dated, 10 AUG 46.

14390363

Sgmn. WHITEMAN, F. A/S Gp. 40.

1. The a/m B.O.R. will entrain at Bangalore City Station at 2100 hrs on 12 AUG 46 and proceed to H.B.T.D. Deolali for movement to U.K. by sea on Class "A" Release.
2. Q.M. No. 6 S.T. Bn. (T) will ~~not~~ ^{be} ~~present~~ ^{at} the B.O.R. before move.
3. Necessary clothing and equipment will be issued by Q.M. No. 5 S.T. Bn. (T).
4. He will be medically examined before departure.
5. Strict anti-malaria precautions will be observed during the hours of darkness.
6. He will be struck off strength of the unit w.e.f. 12 AUG 46.

Authority :- Armd's No. 8931/92/40/Q.Mov 6A dated 26 JUL 46.

White

2/Lt. R. Signals.
Comd. Southern India Monitor Station.

Copy To :- G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon India Command, Jhansi.
Embarkation H.Q., Bombay.
H.B.T.D., Deolali.
B.O.R.s' Admin. Office, No. 5 S.T. Bn. (T).
Q.M. No. 5 S.T. Bn. (T).
Q.M. No. 6 S.T. Bn. (T).
Regimental Paymaster, Meerut.
Sgmn. Whiteman, F. ✓
File.



**AMATEUR HANDICAP
BILLIARDS & SNOOKER
TOURNAMENTS**

(1946)

AT

BECK'S BILLIARDS SALOON,

Brigade Road, Bangalore.

COMMITTEE

Mr. M. A. Khaliq, M.A., L.L.B.

Mr. H. Godfrey.

Mr. Madappa.

Mr. A. Raoof.

Mr. K. A. Rasheed.

Mr. V. P. B. Naidu,

Mr. Chinnapan.

Joint Honorary Secretaries.

PROSPECTUS.

EVENTS:— 1. Handicap Billiards Tournament.
2. Handicap Snooker Tournament.

PLACE:— All matches to be played at Beck's Billiards Saloon.

AWARDS:— Handsome Silver Cups for the winners and runners-up in each event and a Special Cup for the highest break in the Billiards Tournament.

ENTRIES:— Rupees two for each event. Entries close on 27th June 1946.

DRAW:— The DRAW will take place at Beck's Billiards Saloon, at 5 p.m., on 28th June, 1946. The Tournaments will commence on 1st July 1946.

HANDICAPS:— The Handicaps will be fixed by the COMMITTEE.

GAMES :— Billiards.

Preliminary rounds—200 up
Semi-Finals — 300 up.
Final — 500 up.

Snooker.

Preliminary rounds—best of 3 frames.
Semi-Finals and Final—best of 5 frames.

DISPUTES:— In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Committee will be final and binding.

V. P. B. Naidu
Chinnappan

Joint Honorary Secretaries:

AMATEUR HANDICAP BILLIARDS AND SNOOKERS TOURNAMENTS 1946.

Beck's Billiards Saloon,
Brigade Road, Bangalore.

ENTRY FORM.

1. Name.....
2. Club or Institution :
3. EVENTS : Billiards Tournament.
Snooker Tournament.
(N. B.—Strike out event which does not apply.)
5. Amount paid Rupees.....

Date.

.....
Signature.

VACCINATION CERTIFICATE.

I hereby certify that the u/m B.O.R. has been successfully vaccinated against small pox and that all other inoculations considered necessary are up to date.

Vaccination 30. 9. 45
T-A-B-T-T 16. 11. 45

Jalahalli Camp.
Nr. Bangalore.
46.

McArthur
Capt. I.M.S.
M.O. i/c No.5 Sig.Trg.Bn.(Tech).S.T.C.

223 (AIR TROOPING) TRANSMIT CAMP.

YOUR DRAFT NUMBER IS.

..... BRN/195

YOUR TENT NUMBER IS..... B

YOUR TENT IS NO. 25 IN 511 LINE.

YOUR DINING HALL IS IN 14 COY.

STAY PUT IN THE TENT ALLOTTED TO

YOU !

Draw one wash bowl and one lamp,
per tent for the Wing 'Q' Store.

14390363

Sgt Whitman
Fatigue Party No 24
Press Cleaners

McO/K

BQMS Jones

Hours of Duty
08.30 hrs 13.30 hrs 18.00 hrs

DARTS TOURNAMENT.

1ST PRIZE :- 100 CIGS

2ND PRIZE :- 50 CIGS

1ST ROUND	2ND ROUND	3RD ROUND	SEMI-FINALS	FINAL	WINNER
JONES EVANS ✓ GLOVER	GLOVER	GLOVER	GLOVER		
✓ DAILLEY ✓ GEE	GEE				
✓ HORROCKS ✓ SUMMERTON	SUMMERTON				
✓ PRITCHARD	WAUGH	SUMMERTON			
✓ WAUGH ✓ GUILMANT	GUILMANT	BURGESS	GOODYEAR	GOODYEAR	
✓ BURGESS ✓ McQUEEN	BURGESS				
✓ GOODYEAR ✓ WHITEMAN	GOODYEAR				
✓ TAYLOR	TAYLOR	GOODYEAR			
					STRAW

✓ GROSS	GROSS	CROSS.	HORNE.	STRAW.	
✓ TICKTON					
✓ ASHWORTH ✓ GOODE	GOODE				
✓ HORNE (BYE)	HORNE	HORNE.	STRAW.		
✓ ROE (BYE)	ROE				
✓ McMINN ✓ OWEN	McMINN				
✓ LT FLICK	LT FLACK	McMINN.			
✓ BURTON ✓ KELLETT	KELLETT	STRAW	STRAW		
✓ BROWN					
✓ STRAW	STRAW				

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TOURNAMENT THE PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED
BY SGMN WHITEMAN.

Ref. Release/

R. Signals Records
Caversham, Reading.

The following detail of leave granted to you on Release from the Army are notified for your information.

Please leave from 21-9-46 to 15-11-46 56 days

Overseas leave from 16-11-46 to 19-12-46 34 days

You will be transferred to 2 (T)
Reserve on 20-12-46.

Office Stamp.



PART I

NOTIFICATION OF IMPENDING RELEASE

PAGE THREE

To: O.C. Military Disembarkation Camp Unit in U.K.

To be completed by units overseas who are despatching men to U.K. for release.

Surname (Block letters) WHITEMAN
Christian Name/s FRANCIS FREEMAN
Army No. 14390363 Age and Service Group 4.2.C
Present Rank SIGMN Unit, Regt. or Corps R. SIGS. Post served 2. H.M. Monitor. S.M.
Documents attached AFW 5133 AFM 1157 AFM 1157 AFM 1157

PART II

To be completed by unit overseas or in U.K.

(a) Trade on enlistment Tanner & Wood machinist (b) Trade courses and trade tests passed OW/L DIII BIII & BII
(c) Service Trade O.W.L. B.I.
(d) Any other qualifications for civilian employment

Military Conduct EXEMPLARY

Testimonial: I cannot testify high enough to the character of
7.7. Whiteman. Possessing an honest, trustworthy
and completely reliable nature his work has
always been of the highest standard.
The success and happy spirit of this unit
is due to a very large degree to his
organising abilities and unselfish and spotless
example set by him in the field and play 7.7. Whiteman
JALAHALLI, INDIA Date 12 AUG 1946 Officer's Signature [Signature] kind

Army Education Record (including particulars under (a), (b), (c) and (d) below).
This Section will not be filled in until the receipt of further War Office Instructions.

(a) Type of course

(b) Length

(c) Total hours of instruction

(d) Record of achievement.

- (i)*
- (ii)*
- (iii)*
- (iv)*

* Instructors will insert the letter "I" here to indicate that in their case the record refers to courses in which they have acted as instructors.

Signature of Unit Education Officer

PART III

To: Officer in charge of Record Office,

R. SIGS., READING, BERKS.

Permanent Address (If not known, insert temporary address):

HIGH STREET, KINGSTEAD,
KETTERING, NORTHANTS, U.K.

Surname (Block Letters) WHITEMAN
Christian Name/s FRANCIS FREEMAN
Army No. 14390363 Age and Service Group 4.2.C
Present Rank SIGMN Unit, Regt. or Corps R. SIGS.
Documents attached AFW 5133 AFM 1157 AFM 1157 AFM 1157

DISPATCHED

20 SEP 1946

R. SIGS.

Military Disembarkation Camp Unit



I don't know the date of this letter, but dad had been badly affected by illness while in India and Burma and had recurrent bouts of malaria up until he died in 1974, only a couple of months after his sixtieth birthday.

This meant that mum and him never got to celebrate their ruby wedding anniversary, which goes to show the depth of their sacrifice to the war effort.

Denford

Dear Frank

just line hoping this will find you feeling better how did you get on when you got up I expect you would feel a bit dizzy Coral and Gerald are coming to see you tomorrow then on wednesday Nellie will fetch you home, I have not much news for you as you will see Senorie as told you it all, I hope that all your other fellow friends are getting on now remember me to the one next you I think this is all till I see you I hope you haven't spent all your money did you win anything that day

love from Mother

1st Sep 1946 Embarked Bombay
20th Sep 1946 Disembarked U.K.

I. A. F. S-1524

LAST RATION CERTIFICATE / LAST RAESHAN SARTIFIKET.
6.S.T.Btn.S.T.C.


Corps/Kor

Certified that the undermentioned soldiers have received rations or ration money up to and for the
12 AUG 46. when they proceeded to H.B.T.D. Deolali.

Niche likhe huon ko raeshan ya raeshan, alauans *tārīkh tak mili hai,*
jabkeh woh *ko rawāna hue*

Number, Rank and Name. <i>Namber, Ohda aur Nām.</i> No. 14390363. Sgn Whiteman. F (1 B.O.R. Only.)	Number, Rank and Name. <i>Namber, Ohda aur Nām.</i>
---	--

Station <i>Chháoni</i>	}	<u>JALAHALLI.</u>
Date <i>Tarikh</i>	}	<u>12 AUGUST 46.</u> 194


E.C. 2580.
Capt. QM. R. Signals I. Quartermaster.
for Comdg. 6 S. T. Bn. (K)
S. T. C. JALLAHALLI
P. T. O.

It must have been a very frustrating time waiting to get home after being told you were on your way. I seem to remember dad saying something about stopping in Palestine and going to see the sea instead of visiting Jerusalem which was probably on this journey back.

**Health Certificate for Officers, Other Ranks, Families and Civilians
Embarking in Government Vessels or Hired Transports.**

(See Movement Instructions, India (Provisional), 1937, para. 250.)

14390363 Sgmn Whiteman, F.

Station Talahalli, Nr. Bangalore

Date 10 Aug 46

I certify that on the occasion of their departure from (Station) Talahalli

Corps.

R. Signals

the individuals noted on the margin who are proceeding to (port) Bombay are free from infectious disease, and are in all respects medically fit for embarkation. As far as can be ascertained, none of them has been recently in contact with any case of infectious disease.

Strength.

Officers.
Officers' Wives.
Officers' Children.
Officers' Servants.
Sailors and N. O. Os. and men.
Women.
Children.
Followers.

(Medical officers will invariably state whether or not infectious disease is prevalent in the station from which the individuals are proceeding. They will also remark what special precautions, if any, should be taken to safeguard the health of the troops on the journey.)

Signature of M. O.

Signature of C. O.

INSTRUCTIONS.

1. When this certificate applies to an individual or to a party of less than 10 the names will be entered on the reverse, and the certificate will be handed over to the embarkation medical officer at the port. In the case of organized drafts a nominal roll on the reverse is not required as the draft conducting officer will be in possession of nominal rolls.

2. In the case of units and drafts, the certificate will be prepared by the officer in medical charge and forwarded by the C. O. unit to the Commandant of the Rest Camp or to the Embarkation Committee as the case may be. One copy is required for each of the following occasions:—

- 1) Immediately before departure from the original station.
- 2) On leaving a station at which rail is taken, when part of the journey has been performed by route march.
- 3) From each halting place or rest camp en route at which a halt of more than 72 hours has been made.

In cases where more than 3 days have elapsed from date of signature of this certificate, it must be endorsed by the Government Medical Officer within 3 days of embarkation.

No officer's or soldier's wife within three months of her confinement is to be certified medically fit for embarkation. In the case of an Officer's wife a written statement on this point from the lady or her husband may be accepted by the Medical Officer.

For an officer's family the certificate of a civil practitioner may be accepted.

The Medical Officer or other person in charge will report immediately by wire any outbreak of infectious or epidemic disease which may occur in the party during the journey, in accordance with Regs. for the Army in India, Para. 873 and Movement Instructions, India, 1937, para. 69.

PAGE TEN

A.F. X 1801B

THIRD CLASS RAILWAY TICKET

To be detached only by the Ticket Collector.

NOT TRANSFERABLE

Valid for single journey for one person only within three days of date of issue by any recognised route.

ARMY

FROM STATION
(To be inserted by Dispersal Unit)

To STATION
(To be inserted by Dispersal Unit)

MUST NOT BE USED FOR JOURNEYS TO AND IN NORTHERN IRELAND OR EIRE; OR FOR ROAD JOURNEYS (except MacBraynes Road Services in Scotland).

Military Dispersal Unit Stamp.



CONDITIONS

This ticket is issued subject to the General Notices, Regulations and Conditions of the respective Companies over whose systems it is available. It must be shown on demand and given up to the Railway Company or Shipping Company concerned at destination. Any alteration to this ticket will render it invalid unless such alteration is signed and stamped at the Dispersal Unit or by R.T.O.

Back just in time for Joyce's 10th birthday, having left just before her 7th. Having missed three years of Pete and Joyce's childhoods was apparently part of the reason dad wanted more children.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER to the ARMY RESERVE

Army No. 14390363. Rank Sig^{mn}
 Surname (Block letters) WHITE MAN.
 Christian Name(s) FRANCIS FREEMAN.
R. SIGNALS
 Regt. or Corps

The transfer of the above-named to the appropriate Class of the Army Reserve (see note below) is confirmed with effect from 20-12-46. *

*The date to be inserted here will be that following the day on which Release Leave terminates, including any additional leave to which the soldier may be entitled by virtue of service overseas.

Note.—The appropriate Class of the Army Reserve is as follows:—

- (i) ~~Royal Army Reserve—in the case of a regular soldier with reserve service to complete:~~
- (ii) Army Reserve, Class Z (T)—in the case of a man of the Territorial Army, including those called up for service under the National Service Acts:
- (iii) Army Reserve, Class Z—in the case of all other soldiers not included in (i) or (ii) above.

Record Office Stamp.



Date 26-9-46.

Officer 1/c R. SIGNALS Records.

Warning.—

Any alteration of the particulars given in this certificate may render the holder liable to prosecution under the Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Act, 1906.

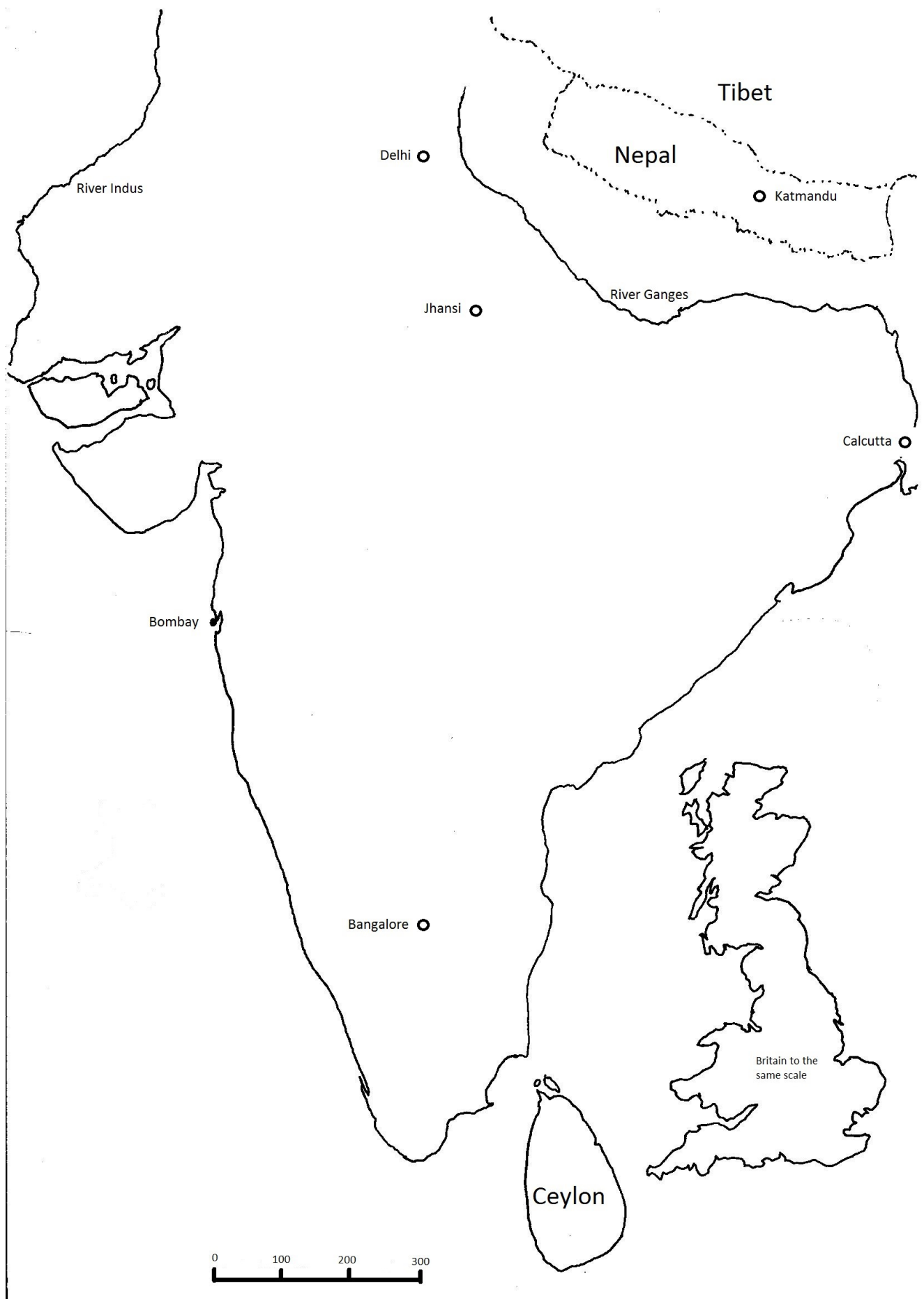
If this certificate is lost or mislaid, no duplicate can be obtained.

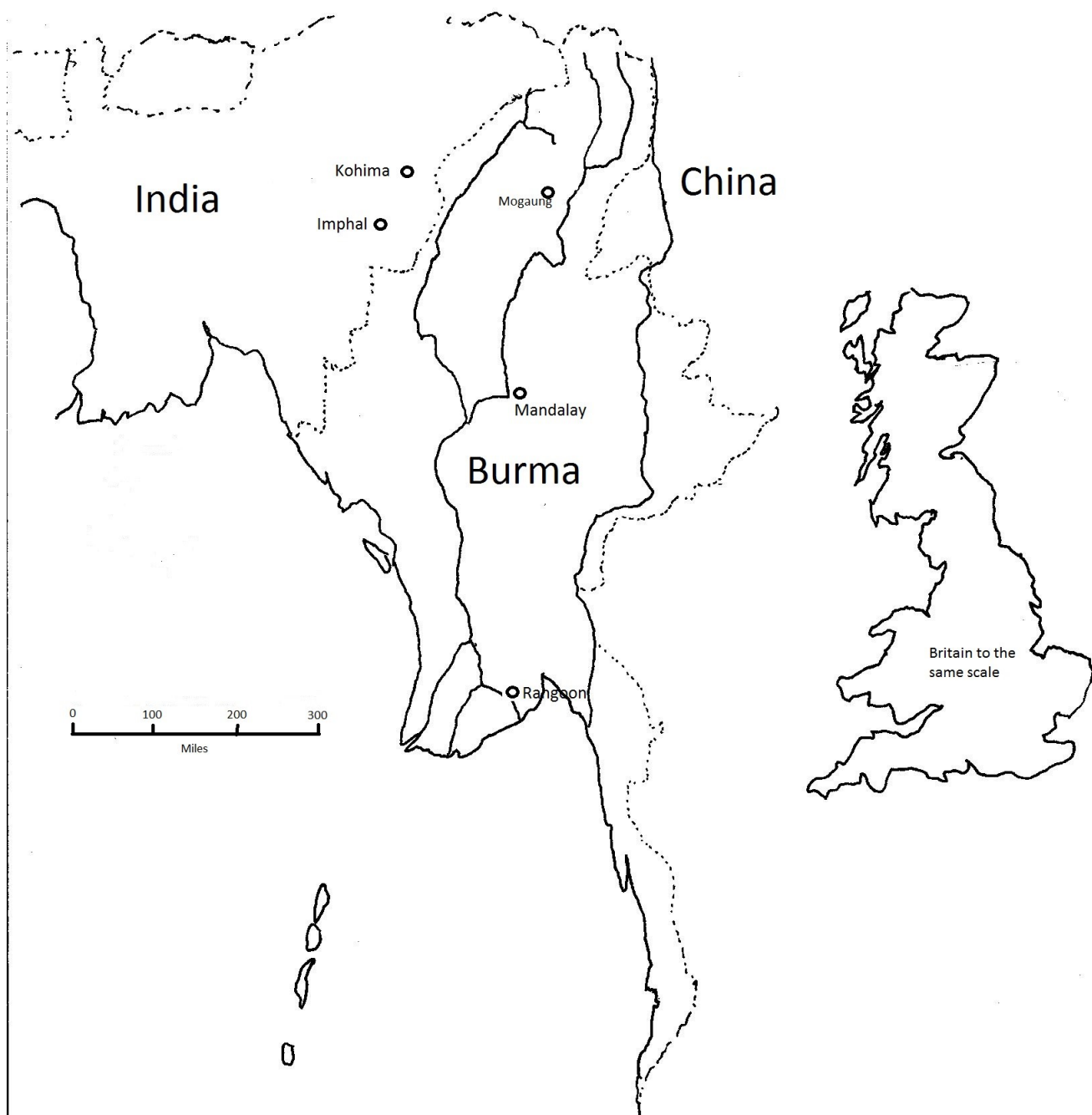


My mother, the heroine on the Home Front.



My father, the one with the medals.





CHINDIT COLUMNS IN ACTION

ATTACKS ON CENTRE OF COMMUNICATIONS

A report issued yesterday from headquarters of the South-East Asia Command in Ceylon states:—

British troops belonging to Chindit columns are now harassing the Japanese in the vicinity of Indaw, a centre of communications and an important air base situated midway between Mandalay and Myitkyina, in central Burma. From Indaw the main railway branches due east to Katha, on the Irrawaddy River, and road communications pass through Bhamo and into China. This network of communications, which the Chindits have been cutting for weeks past, provides the Japanese supply lines to the north in the Mogaung Valley, where General Stilwell is pushing southwards. The Chindits are out to give the American-Chinese forces every possible aid.

It is just a month since troops commanded by an old friend of General Wingate began their wrecking activities in and around Indaw. In the present swoop they are striking some of their heaviest blows against towns, villages, and road and rail communications over a large area. Somewhere inside this area are our strongholds and air strips. It is possible to name only one stronghold, the block near Henu, where we have won several battles. Henu lies 20 miles due north of Indaw, on the main line.

Forty miles of railway in the Indaw region are out of action. In this area the enemy is clinging in small groups to the comparative safety of the high ground, and moving only when his stocks are depleted. In two places gaps of 44ft. and 100ft. have been made in the track. A railway station was also attacked under support of mortar fire. We withdrew after causing much damage and killing 40 Japanese. At one place Scottish Lowland troops ambushed an enemy convoy. Four motor-vehicles were destroyed, and 33 Japanese were killed.

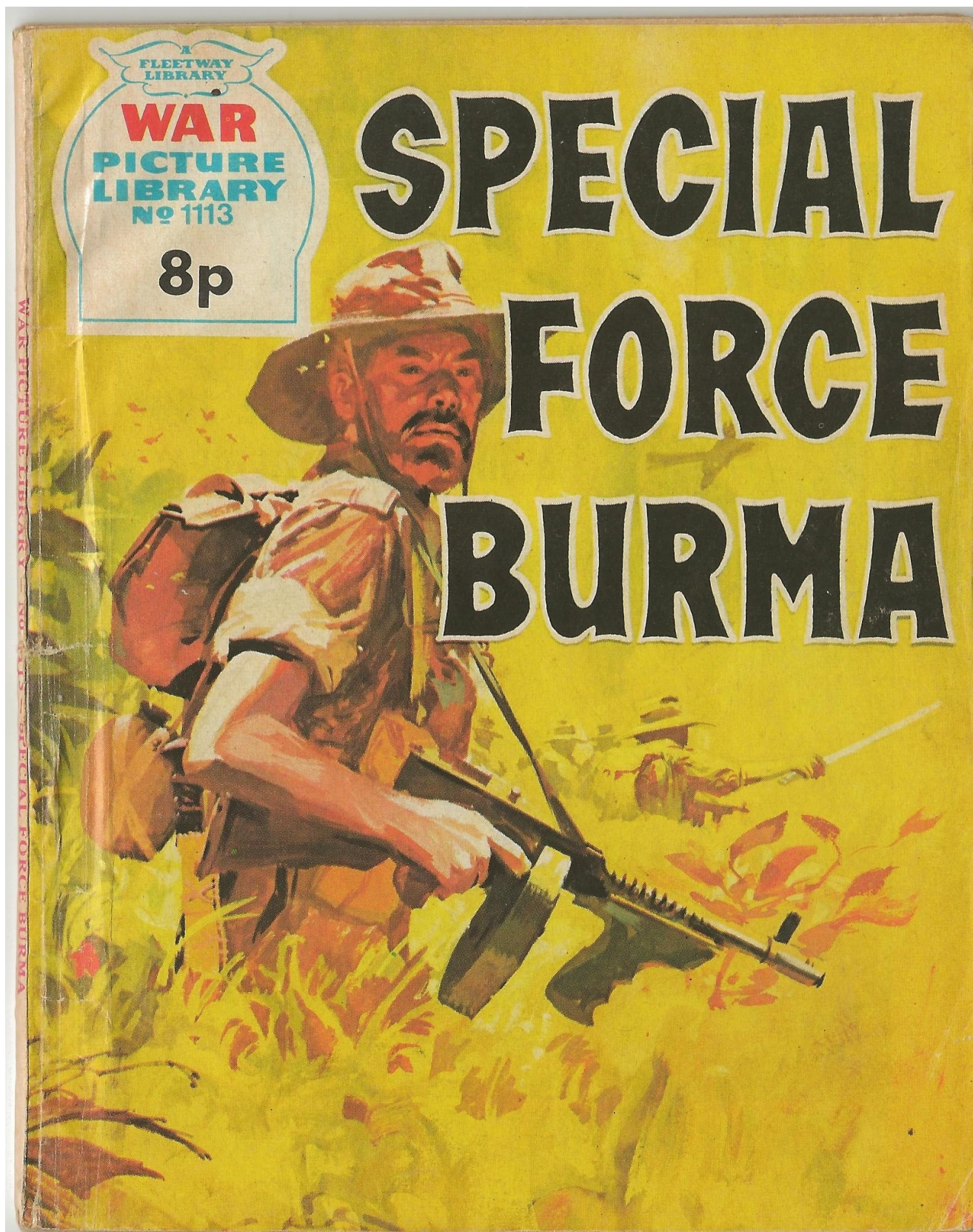
Heavy blows from the air have been struck at Gokteik viaduct, an important bridge over a gorge, 85 miles north-east of Mandalay, on the road from Mayaymo, and on Shweli bridge, 68 miles from Bhamo.

The Times column from 4th May 1944 showing how the Chindit operations were being reported to the British public.

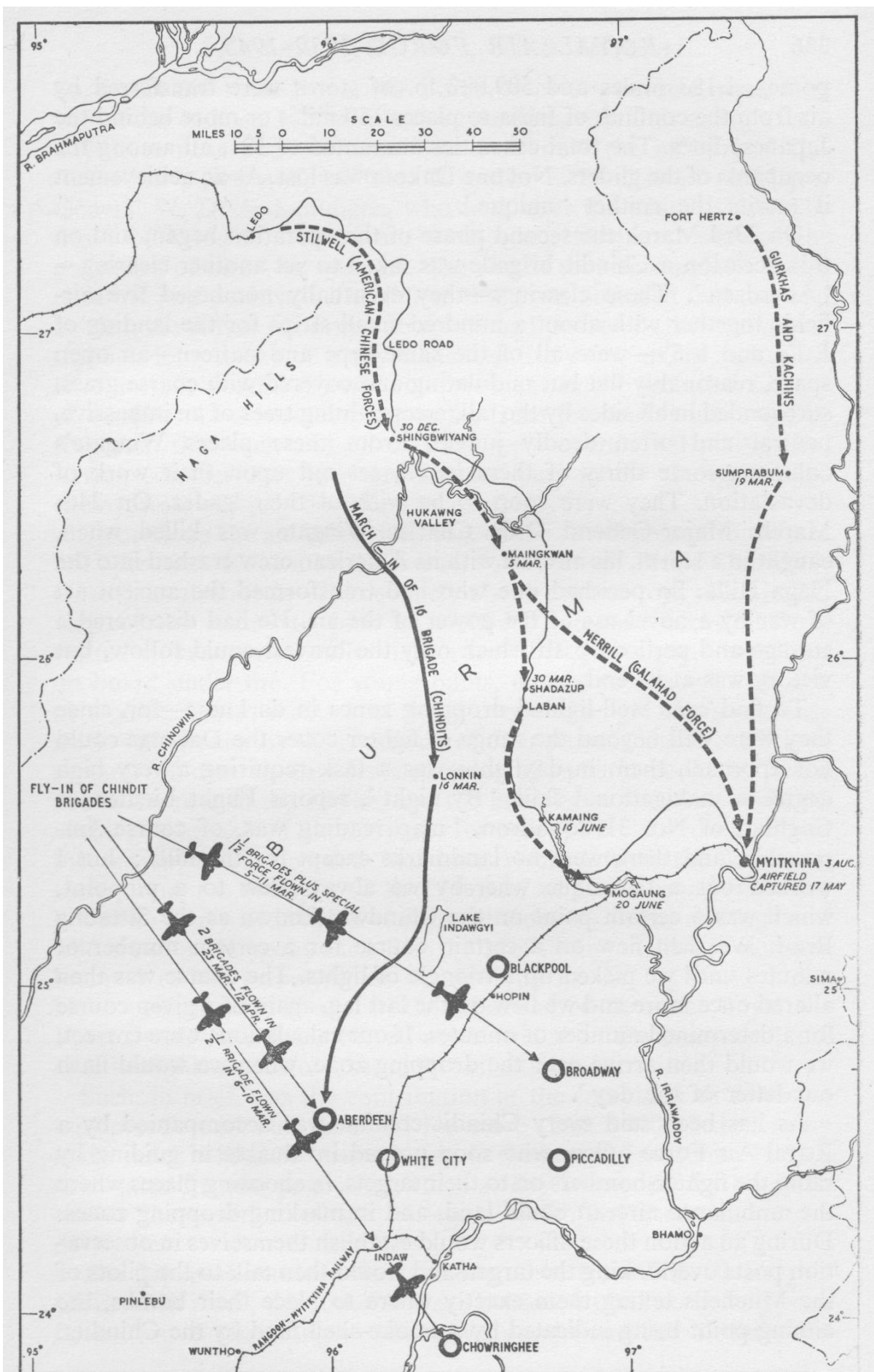
What was not reported was the casualty rate. As an example a battalion of the York and Lancaster regiment flew into Aberdeen with over 900 men of all ranks. Only 398 remained at the time of their evacuation, and of these only 12 did NOT need hospitalization.

29 were killed in action, 107 were wounded, 58 died of sickness and exhaustion, 330 were evacuated sick.

Most men of Special Force had lost 2 or 3 stone in weight and their stomachs were so shrunk that they could only eat light meals.



Many years after the war, the Chindits were still being displayed as heroes.



THE SECOND CHINDIT EXPEDITION AND THE NORTHERN FRONT IN BURMA,
DECEMBER 1943—AUGUST 1944



Number 5260499

Rank

1/c

Name

Taylor G. H.

This is YOUR badge. It means that :-

You are a member of SPECIAL FORCES.

You are proud of SPECIAL FORCES.

All ranks SPECIAL FORCES are proud of you.

You have taken your full share in the achievement about which the whole world is talking - an achievement which has hit the JAP where it hurts most, in the guts.

You will be asked questions by others about your job and experiences, but there are certain subjects about which you must NOT talk. If you do you will endanger the lives of those still in BRITAIN and those who go in next time.

You must NOT tell anyone what units are part of SPECIAL FORCES.

You must NOT describe the details of the arrangements by which you went in and came out of BRITAIN, nor of how you got your rations, air support, etc.

You must NOT talk about your special training, equipment and gear.

The safety of your comrades in SPECIAL FORCES depends on YOUR loyalty and good sense.

You have had the bad luck to become a casualty.

This means that your pals are doing your job for you and SPECIAL FORCES is short of a valuable man.

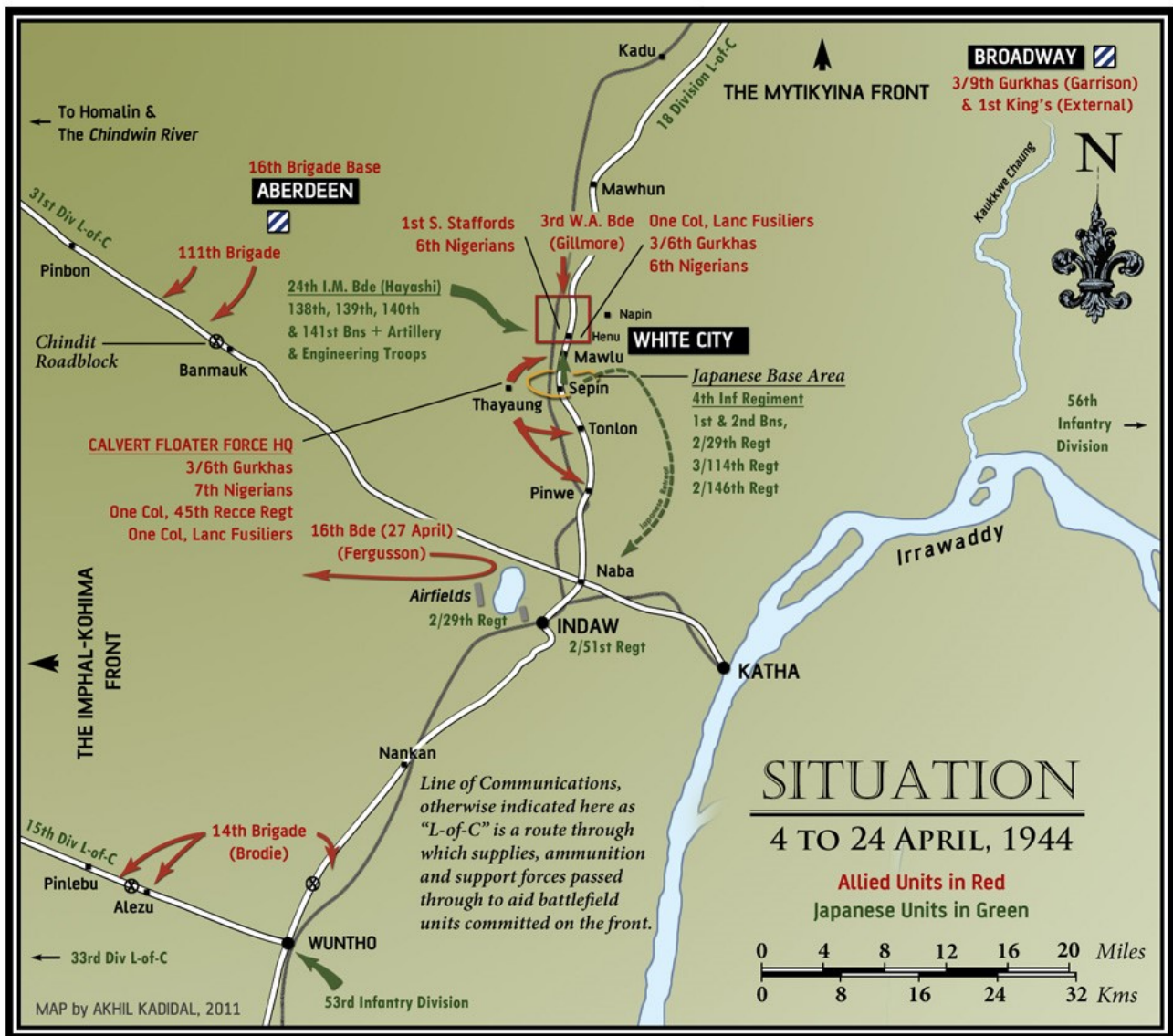
Get well quick. Men like you are needed.

Picked men like you are not easy to find.

SPECIAL FORCES needs YOU back.

Get well and back soon.


A notice to recovering Chindits warning them to keep quiet about the operation.




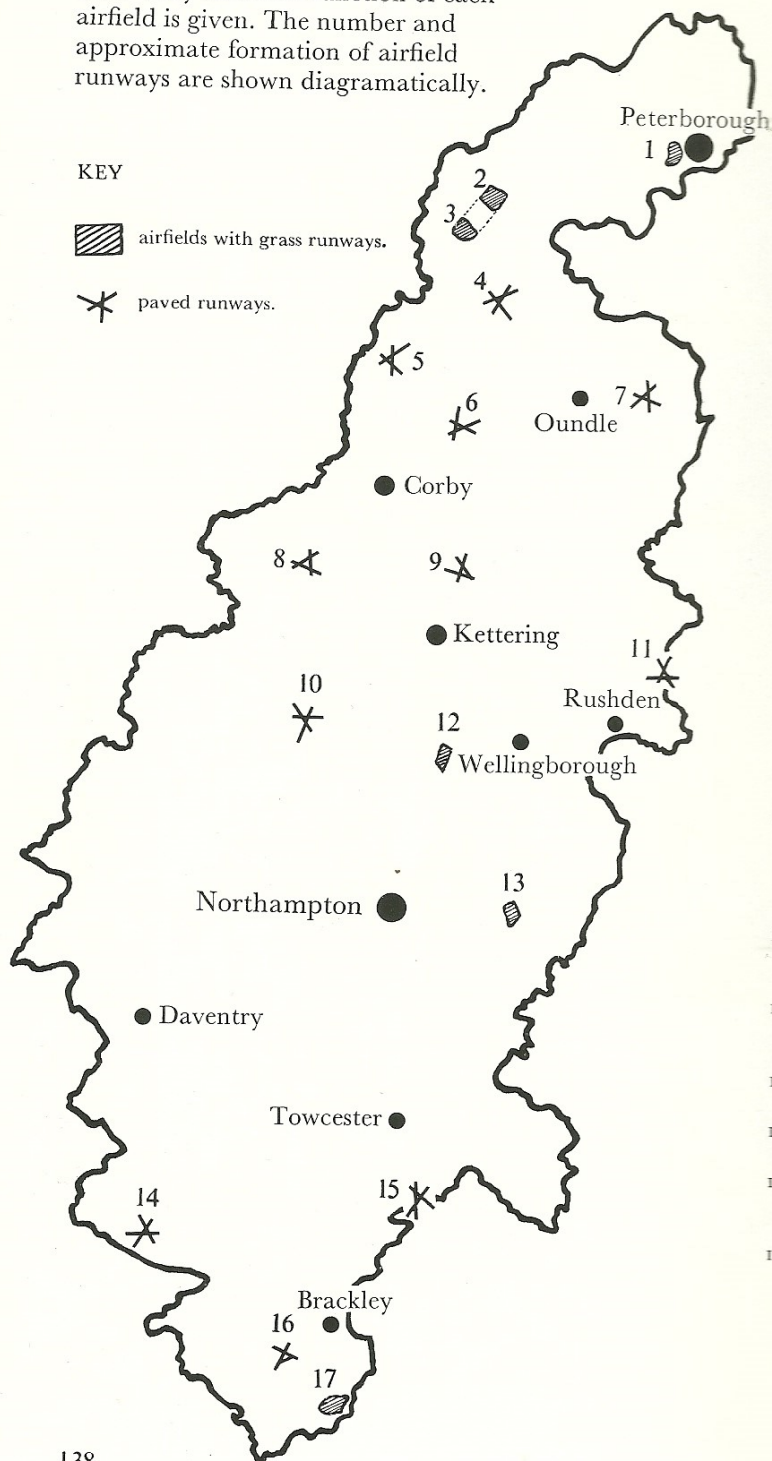
AIRFIELDS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, 1939-45

282. Only the main function of each airfield is given. The number and approximate formation of airfield runways are shown diagrammatically.

KEY

 airfields with grass runways.

 paved runways.



1. PETERBOROUGH.
RAF pilot training 1939-45
2. WITTERING.
Operational day and night fighter 1939-45
Experimental units 1940-45
Master diversion field 1945
3. COLLYWESTON.
Operational fighter squadron 1940-45
Enemy aircraft flight 1945
(airfield merged with Wittering 1945)
4. KINGS CLIFFE.
RAF fighter squadron 1940-45
USAAF fighter group 1945
5. SPANHOE.
USAAF transport and glider group 1944-45
6. DEENETHORPE.
USAAF heavy bomber group 1945
7. POLEBROOK.
RAF heavy bomber 1940-45
USAAF heavy bomber group 1945
8. DESBOROUGH.
RAF bomber training unit 1945
9. GRAFTON UNDERWOOD.
USAAF heavy bomber group 1945
10. HARRINGTON.
RAF bomber training unit 1945
USAAF group operating with 1945 1944-45
11. CHELVESTON.
RAF Central Gunnery School 1942-45
USAAF heavy bomber group 1945
12. SYWELL.
RAF elementary pilot training 1945
13. DENTON.
RAF elementary pilot training 1945
14. CHIPPING WARDEN.
RAF bomber training unit 1945
15. SILVERSTONE.
RAF bomber training unit 1945
16. HINTON-IN-THE-HEATH.
RAF bomber training unit 1945
Signals development unit 1945
17. CROUGHTON.
RAF bomber training 1940-45
RAF pilot training 1945
Glider pilot training 1945-46 1944-45

Northamptonshire was definitely involved in the war effort as this map of airfields demonstrates. The county received over 42,000 evacuees in 1940, exceeded only by Somerset. A total of 7,800 bombs were dropped on the county killing 36 people. In July 1944 3 V1 Flying Bombs hit the village of Creaton.

***When you go home,
Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today.***

The epitaph written by John Maxwell Edmonds as used on the memorial in the Allied war cemetery at Kohima, North East India.