

Interviewer:

This is Terry Ford on the 6th of November, 2023, interviewing Christine Stephenson about her father, George Cecil Lowson. Okay, Christine, if you just could tell me some information about your father, please

Christine:

Just read this through? So my father, George Cecil Lowson, was born on the 30th of July, 1924 in Tow Law County, Durham.

He served in the Royal Air Force from the 23rd of February, 1943 to the 14th of March, 1947.

The age at joining the Air Force. He was 18 years and seven months.

His qualifications gained at Wolsingham Grammar School (under the University of Durham School Certificate July, 1940) were English Language, Literature, Modern History, Latin, French, Elementary Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

Northern County's Technical Examination Council, 1941 to 1942, Mathematics, Drawing, Science and English.

George was very studious and did well at school. On joining the RAF this led him to being selected for training as a technician on top secret radar equipment.

The security of this technology was so high that even the air base commander wasn't allowed in the area of the base where George and his colleagues conducted their work.

George's war service was a ground-based role, part of his service being spent in Naples, Italy.

George had the rank of corporal and received the war medal, which I think my brother has somewhere, but he's in Scotland at the moment.

George's certificate of service and release states:

"That this NCO has proved himself a great asset to his station, being a very good administrator and excellent radar mechanic with a sound knowledge of radar principles."

Following George's war service, he became a British Rail Clerk and settled in South Shields, marrying his sweetheart, Maureen Davidson originally from Aberdeen on the 3rd of September, 1951.

George was able to put the valuable experience he gained in the war by enrolling on a course for radio service work at South Shields Marine and Technical College, achieving a first class result in 1956.

He went on to secure a position at Morganite Resistors later Alan Bradley as a process control chemist working on the production of high quality variable resistors and they are the books with recorded information.

Interviewer:

So you've got three objects brought with you today? Can you just explain briefly what the three objects are?

Christine:

So basically this is the Royal Air Force Service and Release book and gives the dates of when he enrolled with them is to the release state stated on the notes there.

Interviewer:

Service book.

Christine:

You do see what's written in there, doesn't look through. And then suppose does his identity card, wasn't it an identification card as well? That there is addressed who we would've stayed with.

And then there's also just a souvenir tribute to the men and women of Tow Law, Satley Village and Thornley Village, which my dad had relatives in each of those villages.

Interviewer:

The photo, is there a photo of your father?

Christine:

No, he's not listed in there. There is actually a G E E Lowson now his father was G E George Edward Lowson and we can't think who the G E E Lowson is listed in there. There's not a photograph, but it is actually listed. Yes and lots of the surnames mentioned in there.

Note Taker:

These all the people who lost lives.

Christine:

Yes, it is. Yes and list of women who served in the war as well. But lots of the surnames listed are names that I knew of people who lived in Tow Law and I used to visit when I was a child, which you often found in these little villages like that. The surnames there is only a handful of surnames.

Speaker 4:

The book was made with contributions from a few different groups, one of them being a smokers club.