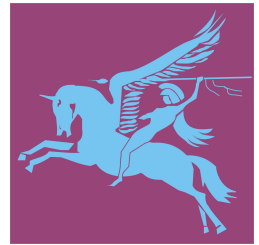


Personal Stories

from World War II



Alfred Edward Thomas Annetts 2nd (Airborne) Brig Oxford & Bucks



Having finished his education at Winterslow School, Eddie as he was known, became an apprentice carpenter at Norman Court Estate and then moved to the Dean Hill Naval Depot. He joined the Home Guard in early 1941 and served for 12 months before being called up to the Territorial Army. He and thousands of others were “deemed to have enlisted into the Territorial Army” for the duration of the emergency under the provisions of the National Service (Armed Forces) Acts 1939 and 1940. He carried out his basic training as member of the 10th Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry starting on 15th January 1942.

The 10th Battalion was converted to the 7th (Light Infantry) Battalion, the Parachute Regiment latter in 1942 based in Buckinghamshire. On 19th October 1942, having seen an advert in the NAFY, Eddie volunteered to join The Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, which was to become an airborne force based at Bullford Camp, ten miles from Winterslow.

On the morning of March 24th 1945 the 440 Horsa glider was towed into the air carrying Eddie and the compliment of 16 other servicemen to their target. As they approached the target their glider, having been released from the towing line, came under extreme anti aircraft shelling resulting in the breakup of their aircraft, which crashed to the ground.



At the age of 22 he lost his life along with all on board the glider and was laid to rest initially in a cemetery near Hamminkeln, close to the German - Dutch boarder. After the war a Commonwealth Cemetery, the largest in Germany, was established at Reichswald Forest, which is were Eddie was ultimately laid to rest.

Acknowledgement - Laurence Neal - Author of “In Search Of Uncle Eddie”

