

Bill Morrison

W.H.M. Army No. 982471



Bill Morrison was many things to many people..... Husband, Dad, Grampa, Son, Brother, Uncle. Before the war he worked as a junior clerk in Insurance. Following the war, after much convalescing, he trained as a watchmaker at St Loyes college in Exeter, setting up his workshop at home, where he and Chris, his wife, took in visitors. He went onto become Sub Postmaster at St Agnes, a position he held for many years before his retirement, combining it with selling stationery, and continuing with his watch and jewellery repairs. He was also the Registrar for Births, Marriages and Deaths. He became a Local Preacher at the Methodist Church as well as a Youth worker there. His many hobbies included stamp collecting, photography and a great interest in Local History, becoming one of the founding members of the St Agnes Museum.

Some writing here is taken from his book... *Jack of All Trades*, and will be shown in italics

This book is about William Hume Morrison, known as Bill.

I was called up to the Services on 16 May 1940. He was told: Your father was in the Artillery, so I will send you to the 39th Signals Training Regiment, Royal Artillery. I passed as Classified Signaller on 8 January 1941. It was at Nostell Priory that I decided to ignore my Father's advice which was 'Never volunteer for anything' and try everything that was going. Reading orders (While in Cairo) we noticed "Signalmen volunteers wanted for LRDG". We four were Signalmen and volunteers, so we applied, not knowing what it was all about. They were not well known, but had a reputation for being tough, dangerous and exciting, travelling over the desert behind enemy lines gaining information and attacking outposts. We had an interview with Lt "Blitz" Eitzen, a little man wearing glasses. When he objected to my wearing glasses, I said "Well, you do!" This was in August 1941.

A Mention in Despatches followed for his work here. In October 1943 he was sent to Leros. He escaped from the island when it was captured, with a few others. Following this he received a Military Medal. Back in Egypt he was promoted to Sergeant and transferred to the Corps of Signals working at HQ. Then it was onto Italy, preparing to head for Yugoslavia. He completed his Parachute training to be awarded his Wings. His war ended in Italy with TB, and many weeks spent in hospital, before finally being shipped home.

Bill's war time glasses



This spectacle frame is designed for ordinary use and for use when wearing a respirator. When the respirator is fitted the spectacle sides are adjusted to the correct setting for the wearer's face. Care must be taken to keep the sides at the correct setting, otherwise gas may leak in when the respirator is worn. If in any doubt as to the fitting of the spectacles the matter should be reported to the Medical Officer.

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It was in Rodi that my name appeared on Orders as being Mentioned in Despatches' for work on patrol in the desert, so I suppose Nick Wilder had put my name forward after the Mareth Line recce, as I sent lots of messages under very poor radio conditions. A few weeks later our Colonel, David Lloyd-Owen congratulated me on winning the Military Medal, so I said, 'No, it was a Mention', and he said "I'm sure I saw it on Orders at HQ" and sure enough, a little later it was up on our orders. This was from the Leros adventure but whether from Frank White's or Pavlides' recommendation I cannot tell.





Military Medal (MM)

Instituted on 25th March 1916 (and backdated to 1914), the Military Medal was [awarded personnel of the British Army](#) and other services, and formerly also to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank. It was an award for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land on the recommendation of a Commander-in-Chief in the Field.

The Military Medal was the other ranks' equivalent to the [Military Cross \(MC\)](#), (which was awarded to commissioned officers and, rarely, to Warrant Officers, although WOs could also be awarded the MM). The MM ranked below the MC and the [Distinguished Conduct Medal \(DCM\)](#), which was also awarded to non-commissioned members of the Army.

Recipients of the Military Medal are entitled to use the post-nominal letters "MM".

As many as 115,000 Military Medals were awarded during the [Great War 1914-18](#), along with over 5,000 first bars, 180 second bars and 1 third bar. A further 15,000 Military Medals were awarded during the [Second World War](#).

The Military Medal is the British Army equivalent of the [Distinguished Conduct Medal \(DCM\)](#), the [Distinguished Flying Medal \(DFM\)](#) and the [Air Force Medal \(AFM\)](#)

In 1993 after a review of the gallantry awards system the [Military Medal](#) was discontinued. Since then the [Military Cross](#) has been awarded to personnel of all ranks.

Ribbon – A dark blue ribbon, with five equal centre stripes of white, red, white, red, and white

Awarded for – acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire

- Military Medal George V: 115,500 awarded
- Military Medal George VI: 15,000 awarded

Post nominals - MM

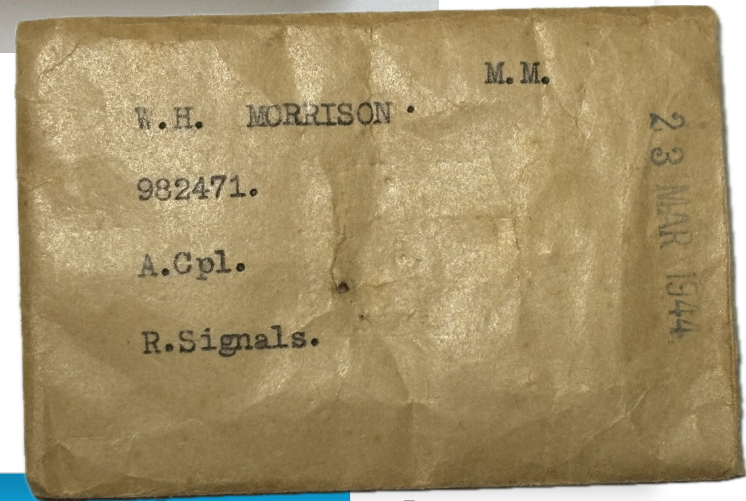
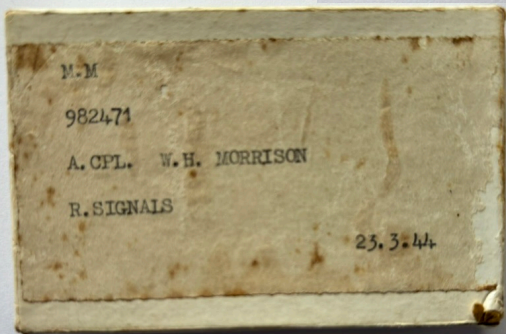
Naming – Impressed Name, Rank and unit on the edge

Clasps – Silver, laurelled bars are authorised for subsequent awards.

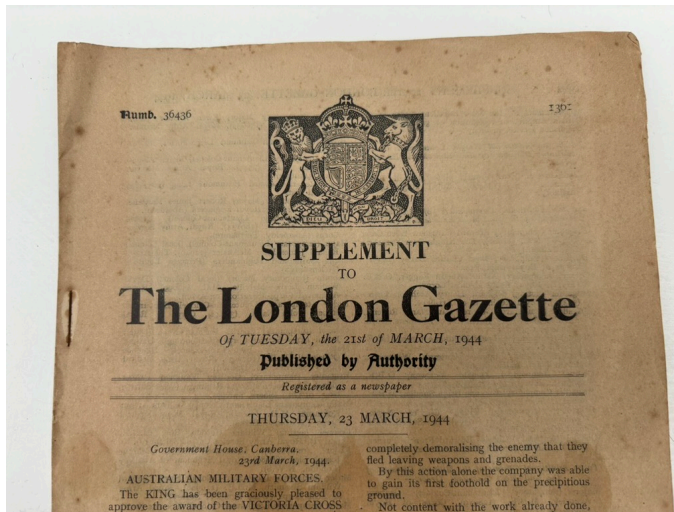
Description – A circular silver medal of 36 mm diameter. The obverse bears the effigy of the reigning monarch with one of the following legends:

- “GEORGIVS BRITT.OMN:REX ET IND:IMP:”
- “GEORGIVS VI D: G: BR: OMN: REX ET INDIAE IMP:”
- “GEORGIVS VI DEI GRA: BRITT: OMN: REX FID: DEF:”
- “ELIZABETH II D: G: BR: OMN: REGINA R: D:”
- “ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA F.D”

The reverse has the inscription "FOR BRAVERY IN THE FIELD" in four lines, surrounded by a laurel wreath, surmounted by the Royal Cypher and Imperial Crown



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The Military Medal.

No. 319705 Corporal Edgar Ivor Flavell, 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), Royal Armoured Corps (Pembroke Dock).
 No. 7914293 Trooper George William John Miller, 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), Royal Armoured Corps (London, S.E.5).
 No. RH/1095835 Gunner Richard Carroll Edwards, Royal Regiment of Artillery.
 No. 982471 Signaller (acting Corporal) William Hume Morrison, Royal Corps of Signals (London, S.W.4).
 No. 3456406 Corporal Douglas Pemford, The South Lancashire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Volunteers) (Liverpool).
 No. 804771 Warrant Officer Class II (Company Sergeant-Major) Walter Greenyer, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (Worthing).

Numb. 36436

1305



SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 21st of MARCH, 1944
Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

THURSDAY, 23 MARCH, 1944.

Government House, Canberra.
23rd March, 1944.
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.
The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the **VICTORIA CROSS** to—

Sergeant Thomas Carlo Derrick, D.C.M., Australian Military Forces.

For most conspicuous courage, outstanding leadership and devotion to duty, during the first assault on Saiberg in November, 1941. On 14th November, 1941, a company of the Australian Military Forces was ordered to outflank a strong enemy position which was a prominent cliff-face and then to attack a feature 150 yards from the township of Saiberg. Sergeant Derrick was in command of his platoon of the company. Due to the nature of the country, the only possible approach to the town lay through an open bank which situated directly beneath the top of the cliffs. Over a period of two hours many attempts were made by our troops to climb up the slopes to their objective, but on each occasion the enemy presented a severe and intense machine-gun fire and grenades.

Shortly before midday it appeared that it would be impossible to reach the objective or even to hold the ground already occupied and the company was ordered to retire. On playing down the machine-gun fire, Sergeant Derrick, displaying dogged tenacity, requested one last attempt to reach the objective. His request was granted.

Having cleared his forward section he personally destroyed, with grenades, an enemy post which had been holding up his section. He then ordered his second section to advance on the right flank. This section came under heavy fire from light machine-guns and grenades from the enemy posts. Without regard for personal safety he clambered forward with a view of the leading men of the section and hurled grenades after grenades, so

completely demoralising the enemy that they fled leaving weapons and grenades. By this action alone the company was able to gain its first foothold on the precipitous ground.

Not content with the work already done, he returned to the first section, and together with the third section of his platoon advanced to the top of the cliffs. On this latter occasion he dashed forward, and threw grenades at a range of 200 to 300 yards until these positions were finally silenced.

It is Sergeant Derrick's fine leadership and tenacity to admit defeat on the face of a seemingly impossible situation, resulting in the capture of Saiberg. His outstanding gallantry, thoroughness and devotion to duty were an inspiration not only to his platoon and company but to the whole Battalion.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St James's Palace, S.W.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the **VICTORIA CROSS** to—

Sergeant William Ronald Campbell Jones, C.B.E., D.S.M., M.C., Royal Corps of Signals.

For most conspicuous courage, outstanding leadership and devotion to duty, during the first assault on Saiberg in November, 1941.

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On His Majesty's Service

No 982471 Gunner W.H. Morrison
Ra



By the KING'S Order the name of
Gunner W.H. Morrison,
Royal Artillery,
was published in the London Gazette on
23 January, 1944,
as mentioned in a Despatch for distinguished service.
I am charged to record
His Majesty's high appreciation.

A. G. G. G.
Secretary of State for War



BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

I greatly regret that I am
unable to give you personally the
award which you have so well earned.
I now send it to you with
my congratulations and my best
wishes for your future happiness.

George R.I.

982471 A. Opl. W.H. Morrison, M.M.
Royal Corps of Signals.

Tel. No. Chaucer 4058

A.G.4 (Medals)

THE WAR OFFICE,
Droitwich Spa,
Worcestershire.



Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:-
The Under-Secretary of State,
The War Office
(as opposite),
and the following number quoted.

The enclosed bronze Oak Leaf Emblem is issued by command of the King for wear by those who have been awarded a Mention in Despatches, or a Military Commendation, which has been published in the London Gazette for brave conduct during the present War.

Not more than one bronze oak leaf Emblem may be worn in respect of any number of Mentions or Commendations.

The Emblem is to be worn on the uniform coat, jacket, blouse, etc., immediately after medal ribbons, the stalk of the Emblem being farthest from the left shoulder. It will not be worn on the ribbon of any existing decoration, but will be attached directly to the coat, etc., in the position in which a single ribbon would be worn, or in the position in which a ribbon would be placed immediately after those already worn. The Emblem will not be worn on the great coat.

A duplicate bronze oak leaf Emblem is enclosed. Great care should be taken of these Emblems.

T. Talbot

Awarded to..... 982471 Sgln. W.H. Morrison

Arm or Corps..... R.Sigs.

London Gazette..... 13.1.44





SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 11th of JANUARY, 1944

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY, 1944

War Office, 13th January, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy:—

Second Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.
Brigadier (temporary) Lashmer Gordon Whistler, D.S.O. (13017), The Royal Sussex Regiment (Chichester).

Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.
Brigadier (temporary) Robert Harry Bertram Arkwright, D.S.O. (28043), 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), Royal Armoured Corps (Fairford, Glos.).
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Ralph Cyril Craddas, D.S.O. (647), Infantry (Fowey, Cornwall).
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Douglas Anthony Kendrew, D.S.O. (44766), Infantry (Dunin, Co. Donegal).

The Distinguished Service Order.
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Sir Ranalph Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes (26041), Royal Armoured Corps (Dragoons) (Sunningdale, Berks).
Colonel (acting) Francis Neville Mitchell (30902), Royal Armoured Corps (Hussars) (Stratford-on-Avon).

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Hugh Wilfred Lewis Goswam, O.B.E. (90520), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Edinburgh).

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Angus Murray McCracken, M.C. (45919), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Res. of O.H. (Morpeh, North's) (since died of wounds) (to be dated 11th December, 1943).

Captain (temporary Major) Thomas Knowles Hargreaves (137898), Corps of Royal Engineers (Darwen, Lancs.).

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) John Chamberlayne Preston (40954), Infantry (Skipton, Yorks.).

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Walter Henry Boken Ray, M.C. (18334), Infantry (Cairo).

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) David Peel Yates, O.B.E. (52723), Infantry.

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Michael Forrester, M.C. (69349), The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) (Southampton).

Captain (temporary Major) Cedric George Delfosse (6952), The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) (London, S.W.10).

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Richard Chandler (28379), The Hampshire Regiment (Reading).

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) John Roger Bolley Wright (19253), The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (Tackley, Oxon) (since died of wounds) (to be dated 12th November, 1943).

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) John Malcolm Thorpe Churchill, M.C. (34657), The Manchester Regiment (Res. of O.H.) (attd. Special Service Troops) (Primley Green, Hants.).
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) William Lyle Brown, M.B. (74825), Royal Army Medical Corps (Catterick-on-Lyne).

Second Bar to the Military Cross.
Captain (temporary Major) Peter Young, D.S.O., M.C. (72254), The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (attd. Special Service Troops) (Gotham).

Bar to the Military Cross.
Captain (temporary Major) Harry William Nevill Churchill, M.C. (66593), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Lunenburg, Wales).
Captain (temporary Major) John Wilfred Braham, M.C. (95923), The Hampshire Regiment (Farnham, Surrey).
Captain (temporary Major) Martin Edward Meakin Herford, M.B.E., M.C., M.B. (17239), Royal Army Medical Corps (Reading).

The Military Cross.
Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Philip Russell Rendell Dunsie (40928), Royal Horse Guards (Res. of O.H.) (attd. Special Service Troops) (Kingsland, Herts.).

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Harry Charles Neil Maxwell Oulton (101917), Royal Horse Artillery.

Lieutenant Frederick Westbery (161768), Royal Armoured Corps (Clacton-on-Sea).

Captain (temporary Major) Peter Malisa Berwick (23561), Royal Armoured Corps (Dragoons) (Northampton).

Lieutenant Edwin Rowland Winwood Robinson (123347), Royal Armoured Corps (Dragoons) (Gloucester).

Lieutenant Geoffrey Barton (303307), Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (Southport, Lancs.).

Lieutenant Reginald Frank Bruce Elliston (247456), Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (Chester).

Captain (temporary Major) Frederick Burnaby Edmeades (6925), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Meopham, Kent).

Captain (temporary Major) James Seward Harris (72024), Royal Regiment of Artillery (London, S.W.20).



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THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY, 1944

War Office, 13th January, 1944.

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) John Roger Bodley

War Office, 13th January, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East:—

- 1639533 Lce.-Bdr. N. G. Smart.
- 1528609 Lce.-Bdr. W. Trowse.
- 2053062 Gnr. C. E. Arnold.
- 886423 Gnr. F. Darricott.
- 965663 Gnr. L. J. Donovan. (Died of wounds.)
- 976696 Gnr. E. Faulks.
- 1788441 Gnr. G. W. Godfrey.
- 1543699 Gnr. A. E. Langford.
- 1632652 Gnr. W. M. Lamsden.
- 1118883 Gnr. A. Maycock.
- 877743 Gnr. C. McColgan.
- 2378759 Gnr. D. H. Moon.
- 982471 Gnr. W. H. Morrison.
- 1120202 Gnr. H. P. O'Brien.
- 987161 Gnr. P. O'Neill.
- 1820610 Gnr. R. Park.
- 10574393 Gnr. G. Reid.
- 1458150 Gnr. R. J. Rowley.
- 1834965 Gnr. S. A. Sculthorp.
- 962323 Gnr. T. C. Stephenson.
- 1127148 Gnr. T. E. Webster.
- 1742172 Gnr. J. Welsh.
- 6399585 Gnr. A. J. Williams.
- 1113374 Gnr. H. A. G. Youngman.



1939 to 1945 Star

The 1939 to 1945 Star is awarded to personnel who completed operational service overseas between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945 (2 Sept 1945 in Far East).

The colours of the ribbon represent the three services. The star is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.

Africa Star

The Africa Star is awarded to personnel who served in North Africa, Malta or Egypt between 10 June 1940 and 12 May 1943.

The colours of the ribbon symbolise the desert and the three services.



The LRDG was part of the Western Desert Force 8th Army, until the end of September 1942, when it came under the command of GHQ Middle East.



The Italy Star

The Italy Star is awarded for operational service in Sicily or Italy between 11 July 1943 and 8 May 1945. Those who served in Yugoslavia, Greece, Corsica or Sardinia between certain other specified dates will also qualify.

The colours of the ribbon represent the national colours of Italy.

The Defence Medal

The Defence Medal is awarded for non-operational service such as those service personnel working in headquarters, on training bases and airfields and members of the Home Guard. The medal is also awarded for non-operational service overseas for example in India or South Africa.

The colours of the ribbon symbolise enemy attacks on Britain's 'green and pleasant land' and the black out.



The War Medal

The War Medal is awarded to all full time personnel of the armed forces wherever they were serving. The medal was granted in addition to campaign stars and the Defence Medal.

The colours of the ribbon represent the Union Jack.





The Under-Secretary of State for War presents his compliments and by Command of the Army Council has the honour to transmit the enclosed Awards granted for service during the war of 1939-45.



Campaign Stars, Clasps and Medals

instituted in recognition of service
in the war of 1939-45

NUMBER OF STARS, MEDALS,
CLASPS or EMBLEMS ENCLOSED **5/2**

Order of Wearing	Description of Ribbon	Clasp or Emblem (if awarded)
1 1939-45 Star	Dark blue, red and light blue in three equal vertical stripes. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	Battle of Britain
2 Atlantic Star	Blue, white and sea green shaded and watered. This ribbon is worn with the blue edge furthest from the left shoulder.	Air Crew Europe or France and Germany
3 Air Crew Europe Star	Light blue with black edges and in addition a narrow yellow stripe on either side.	Atlantic or France and Germany
4 Africa Star	Pale buff, with a central vertical red stripe and two narrower stripes, one dark blue, and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	8th Army or 1st Army or North Africa 1942-43
5 Pacific Star	Dark green with red edges, a central yellow stripe, and two narrow stripes, one dark blue and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	Burma
6 Burma Star	Dark blue with a central red stripe and in addition two orange stripes.	Pacific
7 Italy Star	Five vertical stripes of equal width, one in red at either edge and one in green at the centre, the two intervening stripes being in white.	
8 France and Germany Star	Five vertical stripes of equal width, one in blue at either edge and one in red at the centre, the two intervening stripes being in white.	Atlantic
9 Defence Medal	Flame coloured with green edges, upon each of which is a narrow black stripe.	Silver laurel leaves (King's Commendation for brave conduct. Civil)
10 War Medal 1939-45	A narrow central red stripe with a narrow white stripe on either side. A broad red stripe at either edge, and two intervening stripes in blue.	Oak leaf

The King's Badge

The **King's Badge** is a large 'silver' lapel badge authorised by the United Kingdom Ministry of Pensions in the early part of the Second World War and initially issued to servicemen who, as a result of their injuries, had been discharged from active service. It was to be worn only on civilian clothing and by the end of 1941 over 8,000 had been awarded. Its basic purpose was to show that the wearer was a veteran. As well as members of the armed services, merchant navy and fishing fleets qualifying, by late 1944, it was also awarded to the coastguards, police, members of the Civil Defence Services, and the Home Guard.



- 英國皇家炮兵

The **Royal Regiment of Artillery**, commonly referred to as the **Royal Artillery (RA)** and colloquially known as "**The Gunners**", is one of two[b] regiments that make up the [artillery](#) arm of the [British Army](#).





Scarborough June 1940
Coast Defence



*With the . 5 Browning gun
on truck in the desert*

Long Range Desert Group LRDG



"Not by strength, by guile"

The **Long Range Desert Group (LRDG)** was a reconnaissance and raiding unit of the [British Army during the Second World War](#). Originally called the Long Range Patrol (LRP), the unit was founded in [Egypt](#) in June 1940 by Major [Ralph Alger Bagnold](#), acting under the direction of General [Archibald Wavell](#). Bagnold was assisted by Captain [Patrick Clayton](#) and Captain [William Shaw](#). The majority of the men were from New Zealand, but they were soon joined by a few [Southern Rhodesian](#) and British volunteers, whereupon new sub-units were formed and the name was changed to the better-known Long Range Desert Group (LRDG). The LRDG never numbered more than 350 men, all of whom were volunteers.

Long Range Desert Group LRDG



The LRDG was formed specifically to carry out deep penetration, covert reconnaissance patrols and intelligence missions from behind Italian lines, although they sometimes engaged in combat operations. Because the LRDG were experts in desert navigation, they were sometimes assigned to guide other units, including the [Special Air Service](#) and [secret agents](#) across the desert. During the [Desert Campaign](#) between December 1940 and April 1943, the vehicles of the LRDG operated constantly behind the [Axis](#) lines, missing a total of only 15 days during the entire period.[4] Possibly their most notable offensive action was during [Operation Caravan](#), an attack on the town of [Barce](#) and its associated airfield, on the night of 13 September 1942. However, their most vital role was the 'Road Watch', during which they [clandestinely](#) monitored traffic on the main road from [Tripoli](#) to [Benghazi](#), transmitting the intelligence to [British Army](#) Headquarters. With the surrender of the Axis forces in [Tunisia](#) in May 1943, the LRDG changed roles and moved operations to the eastern [Mediterranean](#), carrying out missions in the [Greek islands](#), [Italy](#) and the [Balkans](#).

The circlet (35 mm) represents the wheels on which the unit relied and the scorpion was both typical of the desert environment and of the "stings" that could be inflicted on the enemy.

Kefiyah



The traditional Arabian form of head cover, the 'shemagh', or 'kefiyah', was during the Second World War often adopted by Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) and Special Air Service (SAS) personnel as a practical form of headdress in the desert.

Bill wearing his Kefiyah in North Africa





Location of
the pictures
unknown,
although
taken in
Africa circa
1942



Maps drawn by Bill of areas in North Africa that they covered



Tunisia



Tripolitania



Egypt

Libya



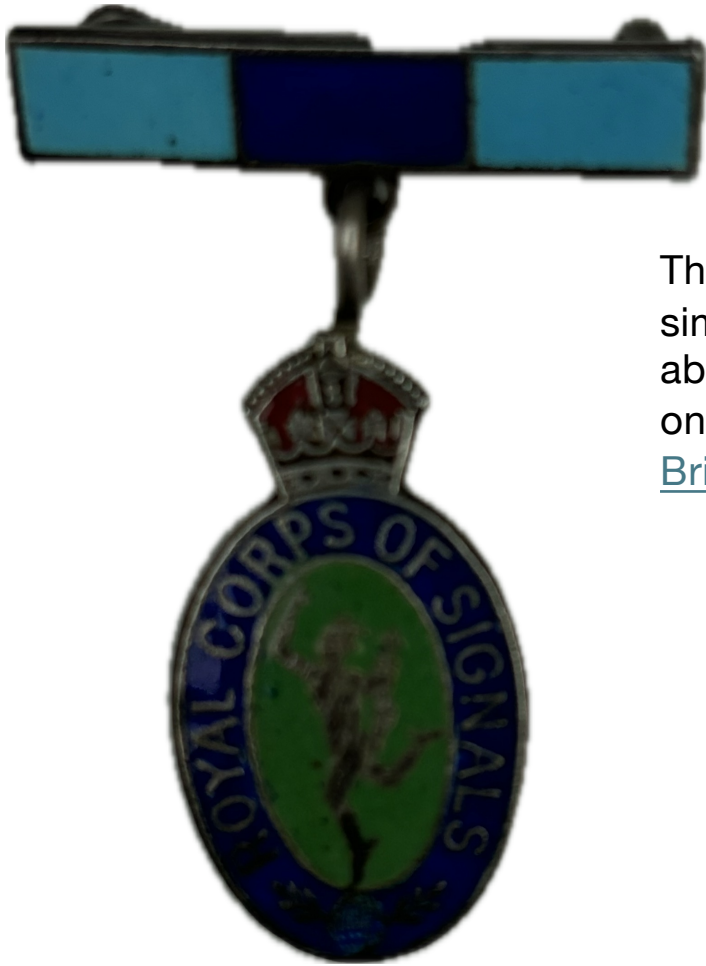
Escaping from Leros in a rowing boat, landing on the coast of Turkey after two nights rowing, hiding on the small rocky island of Farmico during the day.



It was Lt Palvides, a Greek in the British Forces who told us that the island had surrendered. 'Im getting out' he said. 'well come with. You,' we said. We had a good meal, wrecked our radio, collected a haversack of food and essentials, filled our water bottles and set off at dusk.

When I met Pav at the 40th Reunion held on Leros he told me more about the trip. I asked him how he knew where to find a boat. 'I was on Crete when it fell. The Germans dropped Paras in the centre of the island and split our forces so I knew they would do the same on Leros and advised placing most troops to eliminate them as they dropped, but the Commander of the island placed them to repel sea landings. Because I did not know which end of the island I would be when we surrendered, I commandeered, (and paid for with my own money) two boats and hid one each end. I said 'I'm very glad you did.'

- ၂၀၂၀ ခုနှစ် ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သော အင်္ဂလိပ်



The **Royal Corps of Signals** (often simply known as the **Royal Signals** – abbreviated to **R SIGNALS** or **R SIGS**) is one of the combat support arms of the [British Army](#).



Proudly displaying his Sergeants Stripes

Having lost most of our senior signals HQ staff on Leros, all experienced men were offered three stripes to come into HQ. I accepted but I was really a Royal Artillery gunner, trained in signals so I had to be transferred to the Corps of Signals.



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Parachute Wings - awarded after 7 successful jumps.



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Bill was sent to Lebanon, to start training for a *new role as foot patrol doing infiltration work in Europe for recce or sabotage, carrying all equipment – radio, food, guns – and travelling by small boats or parachute.* Then he was sent on a Parachute course at Ramat David Airfield near Jerusalem, *where we went through all the training, leaping out of dummy airplane doors and dropping through holes in fuselage floors, learning to roll when you hit the ground from a moving truck and getting out of harness while being dragged along the ground by a parachute. But before we actually jumped I was called for another job. - being sent to Leros.*

As the way into Yugoslavia was easier by parachute, we were all sent on courses. This time I was sergeant with about twenty others and expected to lead. You made seven drops to get your wings (and two more shillings a day pay!)

These photos were taken on his 4th jump -when he was last out of the plane, but first on the ground! His parachute finally opened about 50 feet from the ground.



Parachute Training squad. I am second from left, front row.







Escape Maps

This Escape Map is of Yugoslavia and the surrounding area



Escape Maps

Evasion charts or **escape maps** are maps made for [servicemembers](#), and intended to be used when caught behind enemy lines to assist in performing escape and evasion. Such documents were secreted to prisoners of war by various means to aid in escape attempts.

During World War II, these clandestine maps were used by many American, British, and allied servicemen to escape from behind enemy lines. Special material was used for this purpose, due to the need for a material that would be hardier than paper, and would not tear or dissolve in water.

Escape Maps

This one shows Greece, Turkey and Crete... and on the other side Italy

