I know what I like

my
great
grandpa

GOOD MORNIN
AWESOME
Grand

A favourite mug

I like to use the great grandad mug. (My great granddaughter) is just one. (They live) about a mile down the road. Nice and handy.

My granddaughter is the mother. It's not putting my granddaughter's nose out of joint. She's got no problem with it at all.

The dad, his name is George. We seem to have a surfeit of Georges. I dont know if she went out shopping for a George. My grandfather was George, my uncle was George and my grandmother had several Georges in her family.

1945 – 1995
DAY

This one I used a lot before I got the other (mugs).

I found it at a boot fair. Somebody had obviously had enough of it and outed it to my advantage.

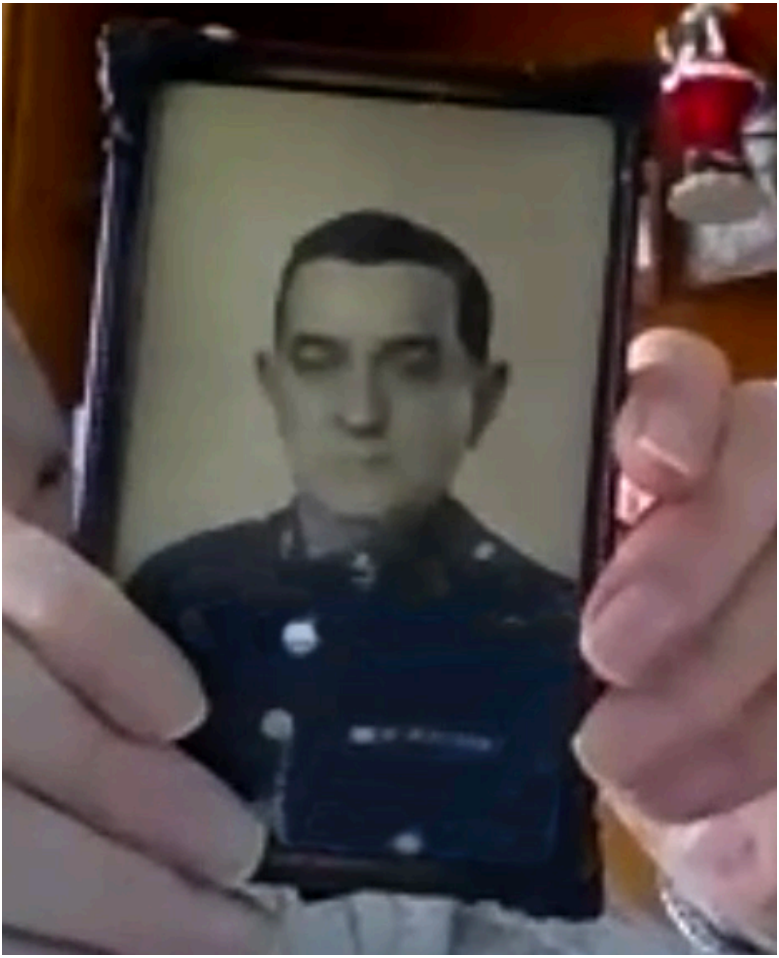
I'm in the habit of spotting anything that's remotely militar-ia and I have to buy it and bring it home.

My Grandfather

He went through the 14-18 war without a scratch, which was lucky. He probably enlisted at Gillingham with the Royal Engineers. He never spoke about the war. The one time I picked up a book from the library and showed it to him, he shrugged it off. He wasn't forthcoming with any more information.

I spent more time with him than I did anybody else.

It was a house full. There was my grandmother, grandad, uncle, and at one time my mother lived there. And my great gran lived in the back room. Yes, it was fun!



That's Grandad

Without his moustache at that particular time (during World War II).

Everybody had a job to do. That photograph of my Grandad in the Specials uniform. He was in the Specials, the auxiliary police.

That’s my Great Grandad and Great Grandmother

Grandad’s parents

My grandparents met while she was working for this doctor. The doctor had moved from Skipton to Dorset. She was on good terms with them and she moved down to Dorset with them as a housekeeper.

My grandfather lived in Dorset, in Poole and he was in the barracks at Bovington. The tank museum is at Bovington.

So they got together and got married and moved to Kent where my grandfather came from.

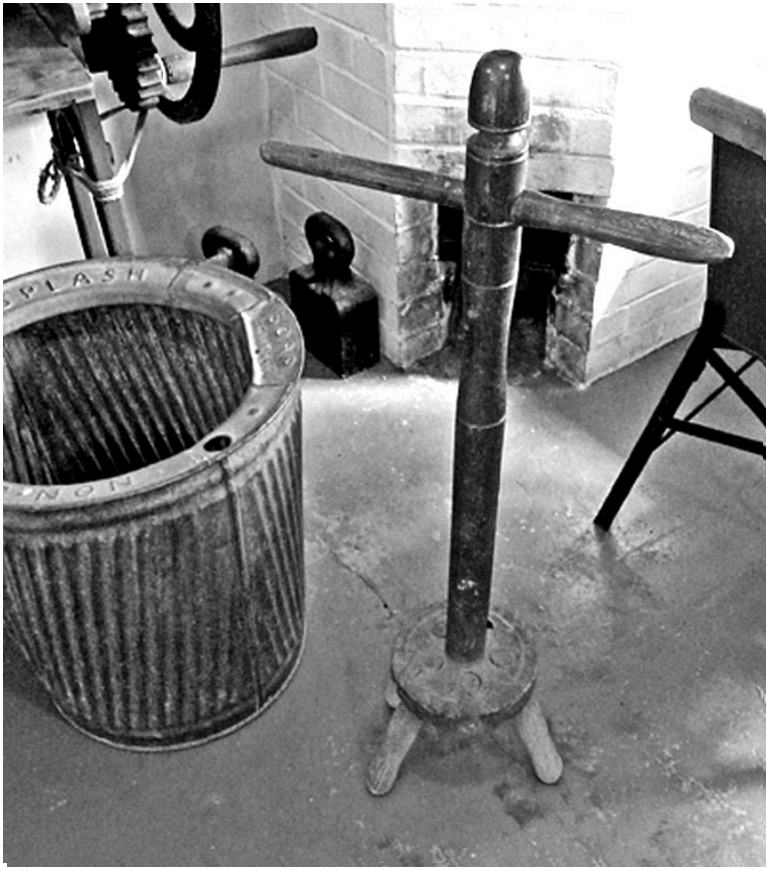
Just down the road from where I am now (where I grew up)

My grandmother came from Yorkshire, Skipton. She was very proud of the fact. She worked for a doctor. She was a housekeeper.

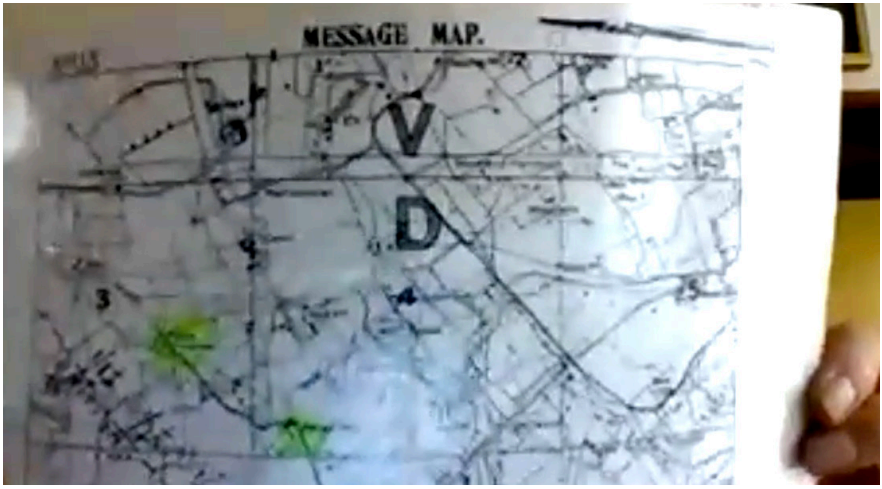
I've got a pair of clogs that belonged to her and I've also got a photograph of her wearing the clogs doing the washing. They were made to fit. You didn't just go out and buy any old pair of clogs. They were all studded. The ones that I have got have got buckles.

My gran was a strange one. I've told you most of the important things like moving down to Dorset and working for a doctor. But every weekend she seemed to have a mood. She was never very good tempered on the weekend. She'd be perfectly all right on Saturday, and then on Sunday she would sit in a chair and not move far.

I never did find out why she got like that on a Sunday. I never came to terms with that.


SPLASH

When they did the washing donkeys years ago, they used to put everything in a big tub and they had a 3-legged stool with a pole on it. They used to get the washing in the tub, then stick the 3-legged stool into the washing, then move it backward and forwards and hopefully, you're washing would come out pristine.


MESSAGE MAP.
V
D

My grandmother's brother was killed in the battle of Passchendaele. I don't think she ever got over it. He was only 15 at the time. He enlisted under age and he was only in the trenches for a couple of weeks and he got killed. This is what they call a 'Dead Man's Penny'. The relatives of lost soldiers, they sent the families a dead man's plaque. It's got his name. It's Harry Lumby. My grandmother had it on the wall. They got the certificate as well. But they'd have rather had Harry back.

I've got a map of the section of the front. I've traced the actual area where he was operating at the time. Those two places I have coloured in they're where the machine gun posts were that were stopping the Allied advance when Harry got killed. They knocked out the advancing troops.

They never found his body. I think what happened was he was killed in the advance towards Passchendaele and they would have buried him on the spot. They hadn't got time to bury the dead. It was a 'do it later job'. I think what happened is, he got killed, they buried him, took his dog tags because all the soldiers wear dog tags to identify them. Then the big guns blew the place up as they usually do.

WEST YORKSHIRE

He was in the First Seventh West Yorks regiment

I've got the regimental history of the West Yorks.

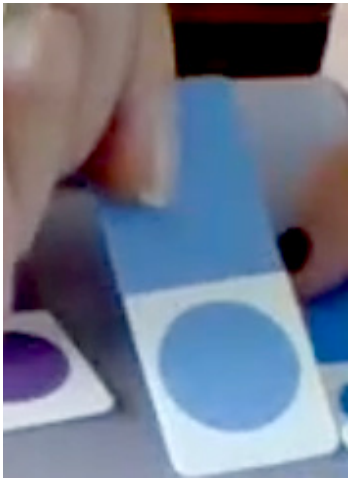
I've got the badge.

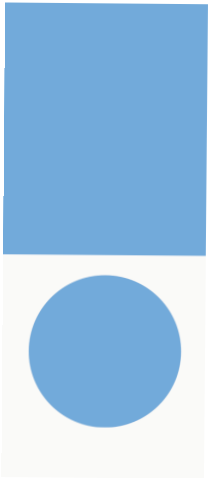
There's another one that's used for the West Yorks as well.

Colour

Colours I like

I can be a bit indecisive





I like the Air Force Blue

Although SH2-9X says I don't wear a lot (of blue), I do.

When I was very young, I don't know whether I had started school just then, but you could at one time tune your radio in at home, and pick up speech from fighter aircraft.

You could pick up the dog fights that were going on above you. They all had nick names. There was Sailor Milan, Douglas Bader, Johny Johnson.

This was the hot spot, this section of the country was quite heavily shot up, and bomb blasted. Our Bus Depot got a direct hit. The employees of the Bus Company were on their way home, and the aircraft dropped this bomb on the bus depot and all the employees ran back into the garage part of the premises and and drove the buses, (or those that weren't alight) they managed to drive the buses out.

Everybody was involved in the War and everybody had something to do. I used to spend a lot of time listening to the fighter pilots. Perhaps that's why I like the blue.

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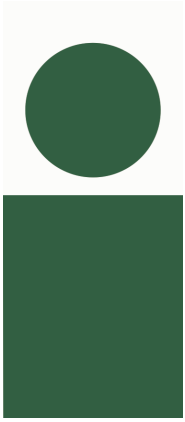


UKX 365E

That's British Racing Green

I feel strongly about the green.

That's Britsh Racing Green that they put on all the cars and I am still into motor cars. I buy books on them and read about all the old cars. I worked on old cars from when I left school

I've got a bunch of magazines that go from August 1958. onwards and they cover my apprenticeship. Which is why I bought them I guess. I bought them at a boot fair. I couldn't resist buying them.

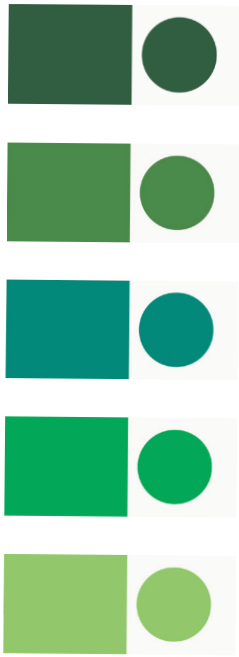
MGs were all sporty the MG types. The MG BGT.

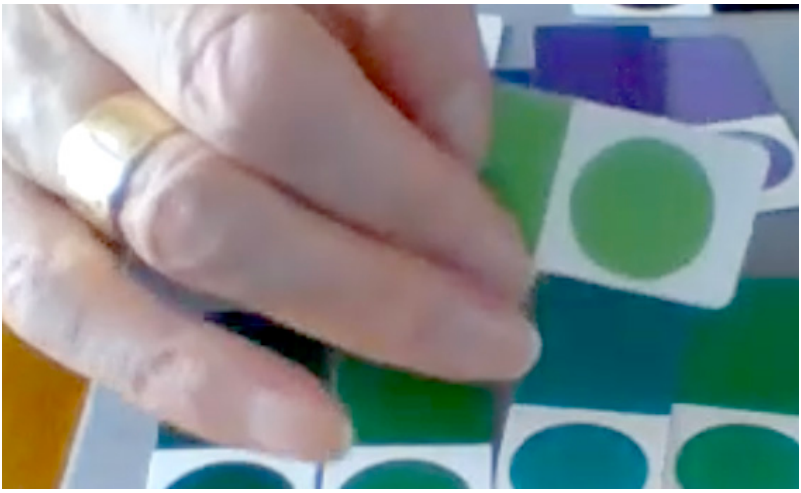
WO 8820

PLAYER'S CIGARETTES
THE BURMA RIFLES
ILE B.E.A. POLICE (NDIVE ASKARI)
KIMBERLEY REGIMENT
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
REGIMENT LOUW WEPENER
CAPE TOWN HIGHLANDERS
15TH FRONTIER FORCE RIFLES
NORTHERN RHODESIA REGIMENT
KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES
TRANS-JORDAN FRONTIER FORCE
BRITISH HONDURAS DEFENCE FORCE
5TH MARATTA LIGHT INFANTRY
THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA POLICE
WESTWATERSRAND RI
AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY
MASHAI SAPPERS AND MINERS
5TH RAJPUTANA RIFLES
FUT REGIMENT

The MG TD and TC, they were favoured by the Royal Air Force. If you were a pilot, you ran an MG TD.

They used to do a set of cigarette cards. All the military uniforms were done in this: pack of cigarette cards. of the uniforms.





SH2-9X: SH2-9 wears a lot of green. You've got green trousers, green coats, green shirts. All different shades. Bordering more on the khaki green

It's strange how he likes green. His mother hated green, and wouldn't wear green, wouldn't have any green decorations in the house. Yet he likes green.

SH2-9: Yes, I hadn't noticed!

SH2-9 that one, I'd be more inclined on clothing, to wear.

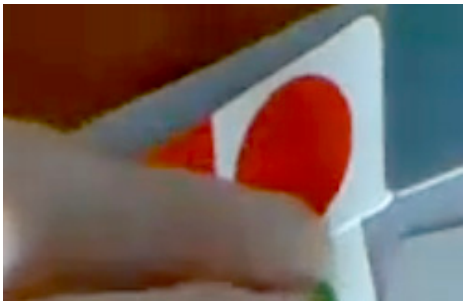
SH2-9X: You had a sort of sage green suit didn't you when I first knew you? A greeny suit? More of a teal green ?

SH2-9B: Yes, it cost me a fortune! I'll tell you a secret there, I didn't buy that suit all in one go. I bought the the pair of trousers, and I liked the green so much I went and ordered the jacket made up as well. So first off with the trousers and then…the jacket

SH2-9X: That was his weekday suit and his brown suit, was it a brown suit?

SH2-9B: Yes I had a brown suit.

SH2-9X : The brown suit was one you used to wear at weekends.



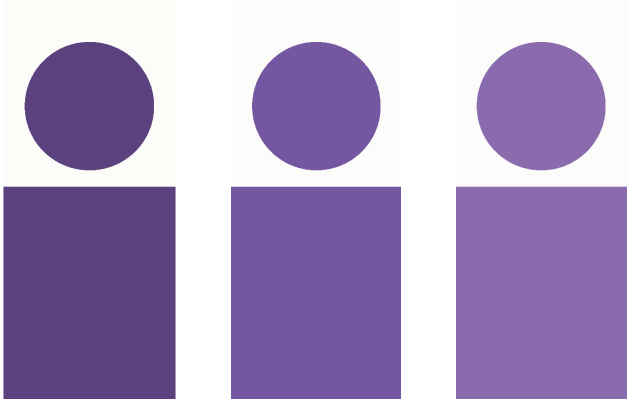
SH2-9: I've only picked one red one and it's a positive red.

Now that, I could associate with the Japanese flag. So that's what would immediately come to mind.

SH2-9X: We had a red car, that colour.

SH2-9: It was a Metro, Austin Metro. We didn't have it for long. Our daughter managed to smash it up. It took me a weekend to fix the wing.

SH2-9: Once upon a time I could drive along the road, and I recognized and named every car we passed. But with today's modern vehicles you can't do that now, because they all look the same.



SH2-9: don't know why I selected those.

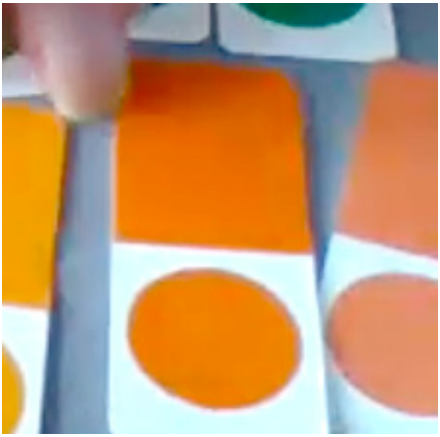
SH2-9X: We had purple as a decor in a couple of rooms years ago.

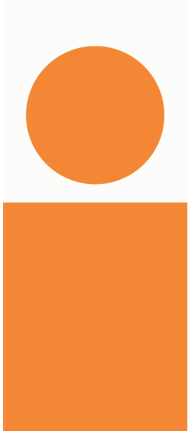
SH2-9: Yes it probably is, it was the bedroom

SH2-9X it was a lilacy colour wasn't it? And we had purple curtains in the lounge. Up at Hunstanton Close when we lived up there.

SH2-9C: On the front door Yeah. Why did we like that colour in particular?

SH2-9CX: I liked that colour, and I did the decorating!





SH2-9: The middle orange one only tends to remind me of the fruit

SH2-9X: Ooh and at Hunstanton? The kitchen and the furniture. Do you remember we had that settle and the two chairs and the white table.

SH2-9: Yeah that was a long time ago.

SH2-9X: Yes but it was all those colours wasn't it? Browns and oranges. That would have been the seventies.

SH2-9: Yes that was my definite favourite house. When I think back I can't believe I did all those jobs you know,. I relaid the floor in the kitchen.

SH2-9X: You did the parquet flooring and you built the wardrobes in the other house.

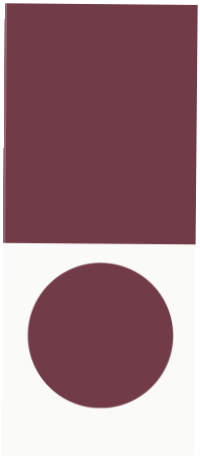
SH2-9C: I always seemed to be doing it myself. Although I'd be a bit of a fibber if I said I did all the jobs myself, because I had quite a bit of help from SH2-9X's Dad.

I remember once I talked my grandmother into me using her garden to growth some vegetables, and I did quite well. I had some lovely cucumbers and the tomatoes were prolific, they just kept on growing. But I couldn't repeat the operation. I got into vegetables. I put in a few potatoes, and beetroot, carrots, runner beans. Anything that was easy . The sweat peas, they should be good for next year

My grandad, he wasdig forvictory! I remember I used to make bows and arrows out of bamboo canes and I used to fire these arrows at his cabbages He used to grow some lovely big cabbages. Except when I got hold of something and managed to ruin it.

You know what boys are. Boys will be boys. It made a good thump noise as it hit the cabbage. That could have been the one I made, and I left it behind!

The things I used to get up to. I don't know how I ever got to adulthood! I had to disappear out into the garden or play up and down the alley ways between the houses just to get out of the way, and not have anybody telling me off

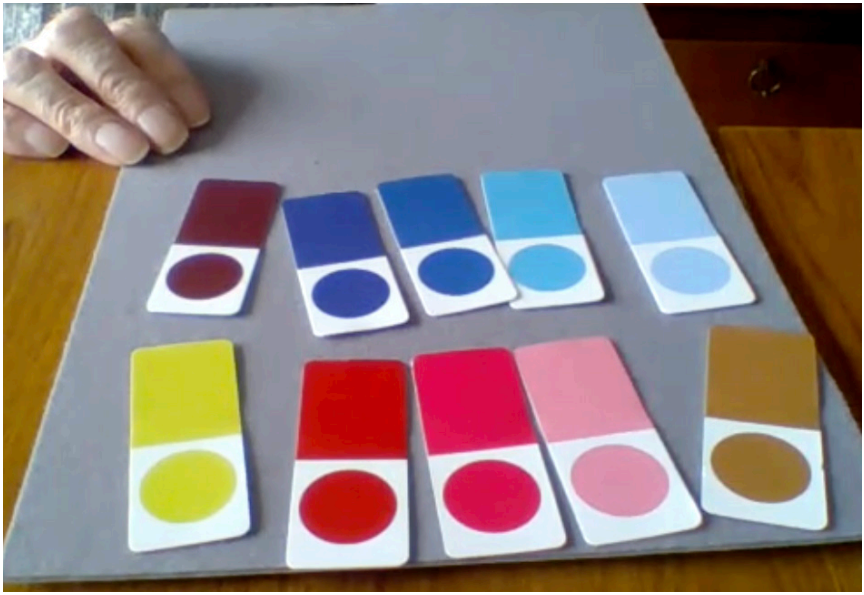


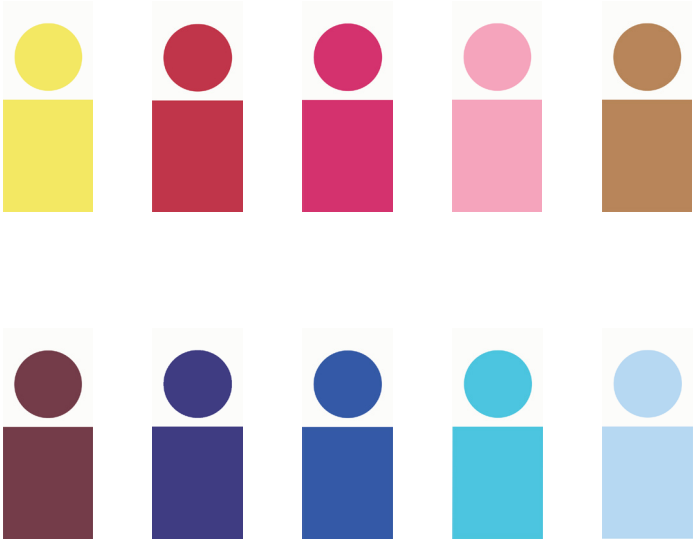
SH2-9 :That should be (with the likes)It reminds me of choc-olate. Dark chocolate. Cadburys

SH2-9X : SH2-9 has rather a sweet tooth! You used to like Bournville.

SH2-9: Well, I'd eat anything you put in front of me!

And Cough Candy.



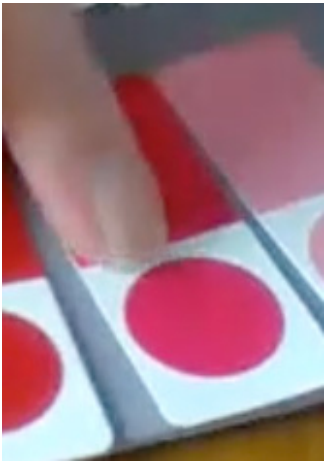


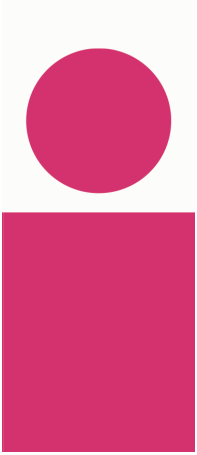
Colours I dislike

That reminds me of oil seed rape. you get a lot of oil seed rape grown in this area. I don't know whether it's the same where you are? I think it pays very well for the farmers.

I dont (like it). We always seem to develop coughs and sneezing, it really is what you inhale from the flowers.

And those sour sweets





They remind me of raspberries, squashed raspberries

Personal Space
Militaria Collection

Collecting Militaria

SH2-9: I'm more interested in World War One, but really any sort of conflict anywhere throws up an interest.

You must know the value ?

You've just got to play it by ear. The warning signals usually get you out of trouble. The hairs on the back of your neck stand up! You think, Oh, I'm gonna be stitched up here! I've made a few mistakes. If it feels right, it's right. If it feels wrong. It's wrong.

I never find anybody to offer me a lump sum for the militaria. A while ago I sold off all my bayonets. I had a superb collection of different bayonets. They were my pride and joy. I had a French bayonet, it was that long (18"– 2ft). I sold them. I'll never get them back. It was a terrible shame. I dont know whether it was a right move or a wrong move but.. I didn't want to leave them behind.

SH2-9X : It was a safety factor, you know that sort of thing, having too many of those around the house.

SH2-9: But they were nice, weren't they?

SH2-9: if you ever get the chance to go over to France its Ledger Tours and they will take you to all these places for a very reasonable sum.

E C
LANSLEY
C E
2599341
E C
LANSLEY
C E
2599341

That's a set of dog tags.

This is one I bought at a trade fair.

It's a fibre and then their name is stamped and their regimental number stamped on there.

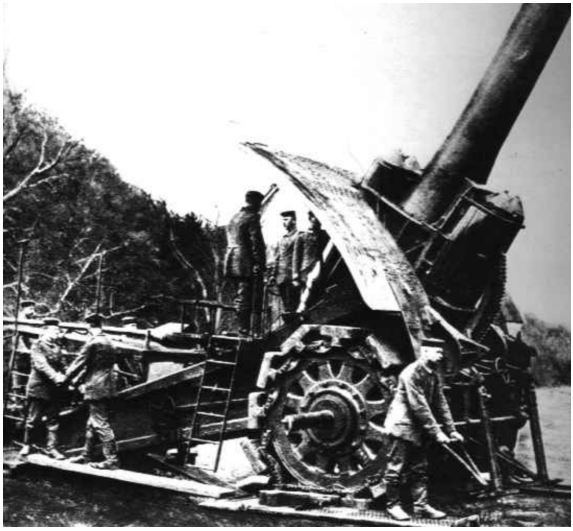
ON WAR SERVICE
1914

ON WAR SERVICE
1914

I've been collecting a long time. Before I left work.

I've got another badge here. War work. That's so you didn't get accosted too often in the street. Because the ladies of the time used to give a white feather to anybody who they thought should be in the forces. They used to give them a white feather.

Then they moved on from the white feather and they got the buttonhole badge.



That's a shell splinter. It depends on the calibre and what gun they're using. This one here is quarter of an inch thick.

And can you imagine tons of this stuff? Can you imagine being hit in the face with that?

What you've got on the shell is a copper drive band and that drive band sits in a groove in the outer shell casing. So when you fire the gun the gasses in the base of the shell expand at a rate of knots. As it explodes the brass shell stays in place in the gun and the steel of the shell just shatters and goes in all directions.

Some of them are quite long range. Big Bertha was the German gun and they were mounted on a railway line so they could move them up as they got rid of the opposition, they could move the guns up on the railway line.

I've had quite a few trips over there.

I've been with coach tours, but I also belong to the Western Front Association and they send people with you to explain if you weren't that knowledgeable about it. I haven't been for some time. I am not in a position to go anymore .

It's so touching you know when you go round these cemeteries. There are 35,000 stones just for Tyne Cot.

The Menin Gate has I believe fifty odd thousand names and they are men who didn't make it. And 35,000 in Tyne Cot.

That's Tyne Cot. The back wall as you look at it, about three quarters of the way along the walkway, that's where you will find Harry. I always look for it. I know it's there.

BURMA STAR
ASSOCIATION

THE BURMA STAR
GRI
VI

My Uncle George

My Uncle George lived with gran and grandad, and me, and great gran. (I said about having a house full). Uncle George was at school when he got called up. I've got his registration card and all sorts here.

He got called up for service round about 1943/44 and he was sent to Burma. He was in the 36th Division of the Royal Artillery and it was a bit hairy in that particular position. There was very heavy fighting.

He's another one that wasn't forthcoming. He was a bit of a recluse, really, I suppose. He didn't mix well. He didn't get involved in things. The only thing that held his interest was the fact that he ran the local football club.

All of his division used to have get togethers and have dances and dinner dances but that's as far as his interest went. I've got his Burma Star in the drawer because all those that served out in the Far East they were all entitled to the Burma Star.

HINTS TO TROOPS

ON OPERATION OF SURRENDER PASSES

IN A FEW DAYS THIS HEADQUARTERS WILL AIR-DROP LEAFLETS URGING JAPANESE SOLDIERS TO SURRENDER.

MASS SURRENDER IS NOT EXPECTED. WE ARE AFTER THE INDIVIDUALS. INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION THE CONDITION OF THE ENEMY IS BAD ENOUGH TO INDUCE VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF INDIVIDUALS.

THE LEAFLETS TO BE DROPPED WILL SERVE AS SURRENDER TICKETS. A COPY OF THE LEAFLET IS ATTACHED. (TRANSLATION IS ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS SHEET).

THE CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER LISTED ON THE PASS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED EXPLICITLY BY THE ENEMY AND BY US.

IF THE JAP DOES NOT FOLLOW THESE ORDERS TO THE LETTER, SHOOT HIM. BUT IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT IF HE FOLLOWS THEM -- AND IS SHOT BY US WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SURRENDER IN GOOD FAITH -- SURRENDER PASSES WILL QUICKLY LOSE THEIR VALUE IN THIS AREA.

SATISFY YOURSELF THAT THE CORRECT PASS IS BEING WAVED, BEFORE YOU ACCEPT THE SURRENDER. MAKE THE JAPANESE COME TO YOU. IF HE FOLLOWS THE INSTRUCTIONS, THE RISKS OF DECEPTION -- AMBUSH AND OTHER TRICKS -- WILL BE AVOIDED.

注意せよ！

この表紙側を頭上にて打ち振ること

日本語譯文ヲ次ニ示ス

本通過證持參者ハ降伏者ナリ
當人ハ多分英語ヲ解セズ故ニ君等ノ手真似ニ依ル命令ニ從フ樣教ヘラレテ居ル當人ヲ丁重ニ取扱ヒ軍司令部ニ從ヘ右命令ス
中米英軍司令官

ALLIED TROOPS

The bearer of this pass is surrendering. He probably does not understand English, but he has been instructed to follow your signs.

Treat him courteously and conduct him to headquarters.

BY ORDER OF:
THE COMMANDING OFFICER

中國軍隊戍友！
請予注意！

本証持有人、係向我方投誠者、或恐不諳華語、惟已命其遵照貴軍指示、請以友好態度相待、並引導其來指揮部。

本中英軍司令官命令行

X/A-22

Hints to Troops

It's a leaflet to Japanese soldiers that haven't surrendered yet. It's a surrender pass. Most of it is written in English but part of it is written in Japanese. They used to drop hundreds of these leaflets up the side of Burma.

They liked to keep on fighting, which was very uncivil of them.

I found a newspaper cutting protesting against the conditions. They were in boats that were waiting to leave the harbour, but because these soldiers had been out there for three or four years and there was no sign of them being moved to take them home. Because of this 170 British other ranks walked off of the ship. They just walked off. Which is tantamount to a mutiny really.

Uncle Geogre did come back fortunately. It was 200 men of the 178th field regiment.

MP
ART

Helmets

If one was presented to me I would feel obliged to purchase it! They've got liners various types of helmet have got different liners. Some I get are miles too small and some are exceptionally large.

Most of them are steel helmets. I've got an Iraqi one that's plastic, thick plastic, but I don't think it would stop much. I only had the Iraqi helmet confirmed last weekend. I met a chap who'd actually been to Iraq, learnt some of the language whilst he was there and as I say, he confirmed that it was Iraqi.

I've got two field telephones quite heavy.

Several water bottles.

SURVIVOR
THE RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH
SOLDIERS

SH2-9: The Picklehabub (centre) and the one next to it this end, it's a German officers hat. Grenadier Guards (right)

SH2-9X : Whats that one with the camouflage on?

SH2-9: Without looking it up in books, I'd say it was a paratrooper's helmet.

A German Pickelhaube

Pickelhaube - that's what they called them.

It's a leather helmet and the Germans stopped using this type of helmet earlier on in the war, what they called the coal scuttle helmets.

This a reproduction one. They dont look like anything specially when you look at them close up.

I found that in an antique shop in Whitstable. I went in there to try and sell some of my collection. And he ended up letting me purchase the pickelhaube.

you are a
ad
amily you are
world

Bust of Churchill

I found that in in an antique shopping Maidstone and luckily I had enough cash on me to buy it. The other thing I hadn't taken into account was how heavy it was!

The helmet on the left is a genuine American helmet of Second World War. I know it's genuine because it cost me more money. The beret is the Grenadier Guards. That's a guard's badge on the side of the beret.

303 cartridges

That's the caliber of the bullet, if you like. I've got different cartridges. I've got some German ones, British and American. You can tell what manufacture they are by the clip on them that holds 5 cartridges all in one clip. The American will be different because the Garand rifle, which is the rifle they used during the Second World War. That clip holds 8 cartridges whereas British ammunition clips carry 5. When you watch these war films they fire off 8 shots and then the clip pings and comes out of the side of the rifle.

GRANDAD
Thanks for your
I always keep in
where I feel
some small advice
but when I have
a worthy hero
on dark days
when I feel
rainy days

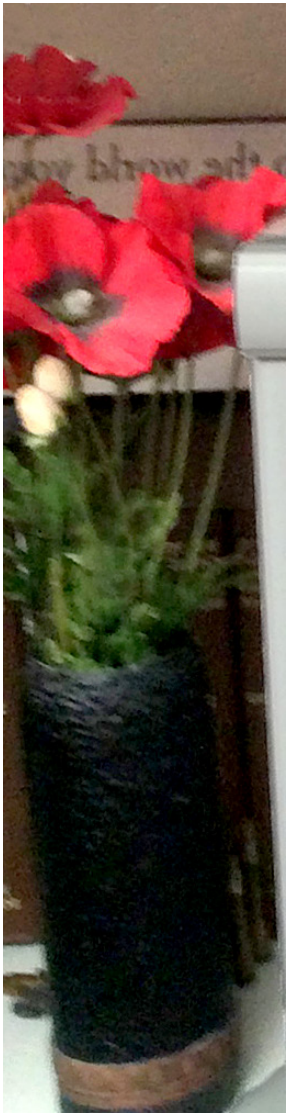
The medals are family medals

That's Uncle George's (on the left)

The middle one is Grandad's

(on the right) It's not my Grandad's, it could be Reg's. Uncle Reg was in the regular army but unfortunately he managed to get captured by the Japanese when Singapore fell and he spent three and a half years in a Japanese prison camp with all the luxuries. He came home. He was a bit more forthcoming. He tried to teach me counting in Japanese.

I can never understand why people sell off family war medals. You see it every week on the antiques programs on TV. People selling medals for peanuts. When there's no one to hand them on to they should be offered to the regiment they belonged to.



Poppies

SH2-9X: We do have a few! There's that one by the Churchill bust that's got a lot of poppies in. There's that one.

And then every year, when we get a poppy it's never ever thrown away. It's put either in a pot or somewhere or I've got a, it's supposed to be a jewel box, but I don't use it as a jewel box. It's stuffed full of poppies.

We do have some poppies in the garden as well!

Where the Doodle-Bugs Crashed in Kent
Summer 1944
E S.
WAR OFFICE

Where the Doodle-Bugs Crashed in Kent
Summer 1944
E S.
WAR OFFICE

The Iraqi helmet

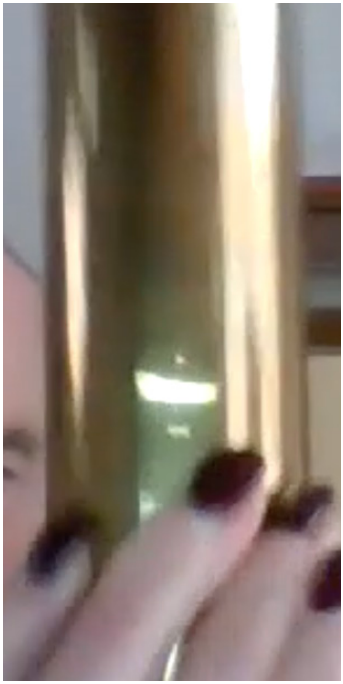
SH2-9CX: in between those three on that box on the floor that's the Iraqi one.

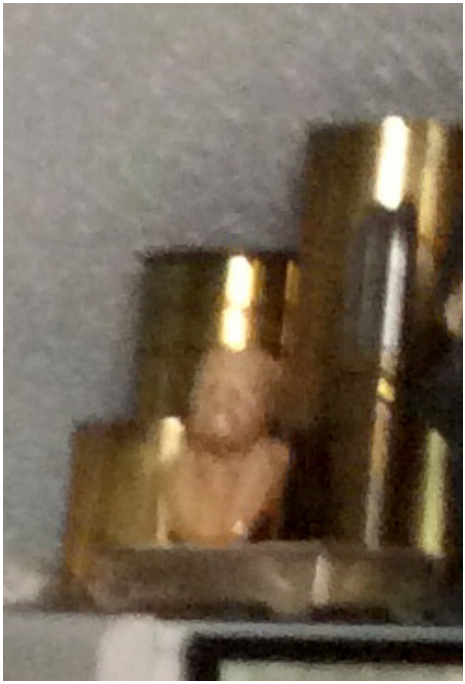
SH2-9C: I bought it at a boot fair. There was 2 helmets on this particular stall and I had an idea what they were. When I spoke to the guy, I said, how much are your helmets (expecting an extortionate price) and he said, £4. So I paid £4 for 2 helmets. The average for something that isn't that rare is £25.

The War Office box

They probably kept their sandwiches in it!

Although it's got war office on it, it had two slips of paper in it when I got it home and emptied it out. There was the name, and address of these 2 people. So I can only assume they kept it for their luggage when they were moving from one office to another. Documents ?





Brass shell cases

SH2-9: They've got a stamp on the base that tells where the shell case is manufactured and whether it was re-filled with Liddite I think it was, that they used to use as an explosive.

SH2-9X: There are some etchings and printing on the bottom. 1944 CF ECC 392 or 302, 40 millimetre but it doesn't say where it's made.

SH2-9: This one says MAI, a German shell case. Magdeburg?

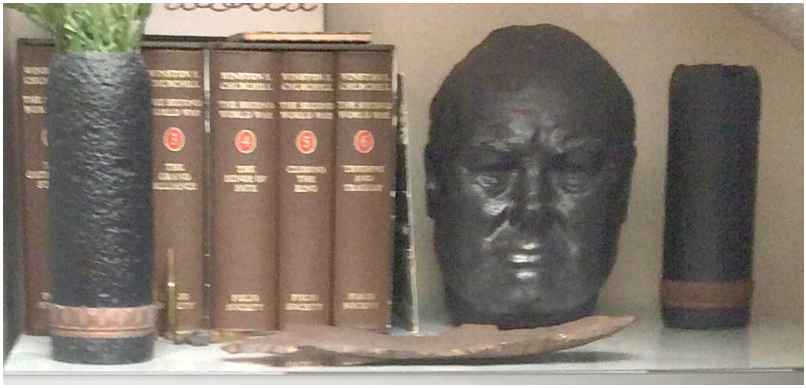
SH2-9X The First World War one, has got 1915 on the bottom. I should think they they must be a similar thing to how they mark gold?

SH2-9: Yes, and it tells you where and when it was made. That one there I think that's 75mm. That's a big one.

The big brass shell case

A walking out stick. Generally the officer's one is a bit better quality than the others, and they normally have a silver regimental badge. I haven't got a pace stick anymore.

What else have I got in there? I think it's mainly maps.



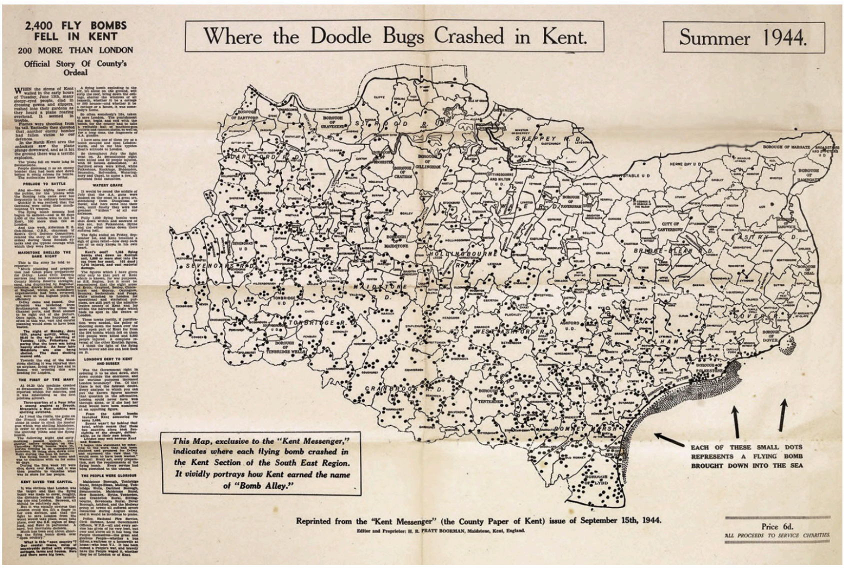
Shrapnel

Thats shrapnel

I've got lots of small bits. It's broken shell.

Shrapnel is a bit of an incorrect name. Shrapnel was devised by a General Shrapnel in the Crimean War I believe, and he named it.

Where the Doodle Bugs Crashed in Kent
Summer 1944


2,400 FLY BOMBS FELL IN KENT
200 MORE THAN LONDON
Official Story Of County's Ordeal
Where the Doodle Bugs Crashed in Kent.
Summer 1944.
This Map, exclusive to the "Kent Messenger," indicates where each flying bomb crashed in the Kent Section of the South East Region. It vividly portrays how Kent earned the name of "Bomb Alley."
EACH OF THESE SMALL DOTS REPRESENTS A FLYING BOMB BROUGHT DOWN INTO THE SEA
Reprinted from the "Kent Messenger" (the County Paper of Kent) issue of September 15th, 1944.
Editor and Proprietor: H. R. PRATT BOORMAN, Maidstone, Kent, England.
Price 6d.
ALL PROCEEDS TO SERVICE CHARITIES.

The doodle bug map

It covers every one that was brought down.

What do they sound like? A drone... hmmmmmmm...that comes over the coast and then when the engine cuts out that's when it falls. It goes straight down and makes a terrible mess.

When it cut's out, duck.

Uncle George's hat

This is Uncle George's hat. Uncle George that was in Burma and that's his Bush Hat.

We've got a photograph of him, just on the side of the stair-well, wearing it.

A Vietnamese hat

It's not original, it's just something I bought on a silly whim.

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE THIRD REICH
SOLDIER
THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME
A FRENCH CHURCH HISTORY
PARIS
THE WORLD WAR I ALL

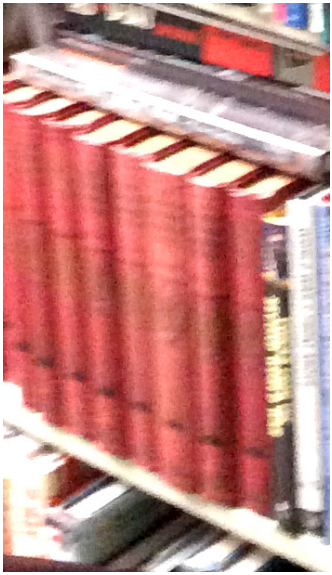
SH2-9: All my books cost a fortune. It's a big subject. There's no end of books you can buy and read up...

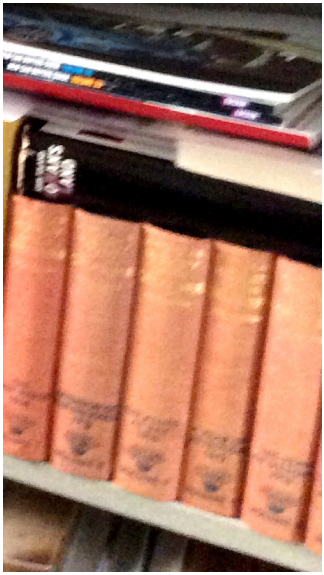
SH2-9X: That's just some of them. There's over 1000.

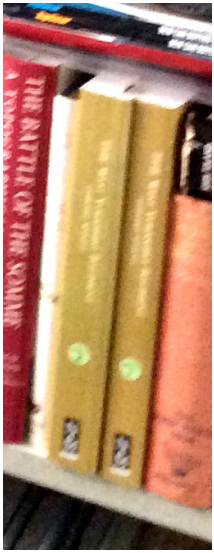
SH2-9: You can look at these books, and you can follow regiments, and just names. You can buy a book with everyone's name in it and they print individual books for the regiments. They've got every guys name in that book.

SH2-9X: Most of them are what SH2-9 calls his dippy books. You don't have to read them cover to cover they're more for reference. So you can dip in if you want to read about a particular part of the war.

SH2-9: Armageddon. That is a book of maps of the whole war. The First World War again. It's all the maps from the different areas.






THE BATTLE OF THE SONAR

World War 1 books

That set there underneath the Grenadier Guards (cap), that was a fiver at the boot fair. They're on the First World War, from beginning to end. I think I got that (red set)…that's the same, a set for the First World War. I think there's 9 volumes there (left) and 6 volumes there (right).

Usually the company officers, they write up a war diary so that nothing is forgotten. You couldn't rely on the normal squaddie to write up the War Diary. He'd be too busy polishing his boots! The quarter-master sargeant would write up the war diary.

Those two with the yellow covers, that's the history of the West Yorks. It tells you what Harry was doing on that fateful day...