

Transcript of Eric Bullen Audio Clip

Eric: Eventually I was called up and I was stationed at Dover, Dover Castle, and with the Queens Royal Regiment and from there I was sent abroad. We went through the Mediterranean and I was stationed in Iraq on police duty and from there we went further round the coast and joined the 8th Army in North Africa. There I was wounded and my right hand was severed and I had shrapnel in my shoulders and I was taken back to a dressing station and from there I was operated on and sent to various hospitals.

Interviewer: Whereabouts was this?

Eric: In North Africa.

Interviewer: Whereabouts in North Africa?

Eric: Enfidaville. A place called Enfidaville.

Interviewer: Is that in Egypt?

Eric: Tunisia. From there I was sent home and the convoy in front of us was decimated by submarines, u-boats, and the one behind us was also covered so I was very lucky. I got home.

Interviewer: What did it feel like to be involved in that at the time?

Eric: Well, very nerve-racking, really. When you're on the sea and you know that you're likely to be sunk any moment it's very agonising. But I got home and at the time, of course, I was living in Kingston and as I could no longer handle the tools, carpenters tools, I had to change my occupation and I became an insurance man.

Interviewer: Was your family with you in Kingston?

Eric: My family – I was married to my first wife of course and I had a son. One of the things I do remember about him was that when I was abroad my first wife took him to post a letter to me and he put it in the letter box and when she put him down he knelt down to the bottom of the letter box and said, 'Have you caught it daddy?' [laughs].

Interviewer: So sweet.

Eric: I always remember that.