

Transcript of Eric Hasted Video Clip

Only a few days later we were told 'stand to' so we lashed up everything on the tank stood to and we stood to for about half an hour then we were given stand down its the South Africans. Because our South Africans were reconnaissance and we could see all this cloud of sand and dimly see vehicles moving so we stood down relaxed, I suppose about five minutes, and they said 'No its not! Stand to!' So we all piled back in our tanks again and we got the order to line up and to the line across the track and it was Jerry coming. We opened fire and they opened fire and there was twelve of us and there were in excess of sixty of them. So we just kept firing and firing. Me down in the hull loading the gun couldn't see what was going on but the whole tank was rocking and banging and rocking. I thought I wouldn't want to be up in the turret he's really firing away with the turret gun up there and I suppose after about an hour we withdrew. When we withdrew we found only four of us were still fit the other eight had been knocked out. One was fit to fight on, two had to go to regimental workshops and we had to go to Trobuk workshops. When we got out the tank and had a look to see what the damage was we realised that one of the coppola flaps, which were normally up and open, one had been shot off completely and then we realised the tank commander had bandages round here. He would normally have his head out but fortunately he was down when that went and a piece of shrapnel hit him on the top of the head, laid him out and the crew in the turret had bandaged him up. But he put his head back out there again and went on as though nothing had happened.