

**Parkin Lawson****Weapons Course**

We were sent to Whitburn for a long weekend to fire our weapons. And, believe it or not, I was all of a dither because I'd never fired a rifle or a gun of any sort. And we had to march five miles at Whitburn and then when we got to the camp entrance we had to put our gas masks on and we had to run down to the firing range and fire ten rounds, so ten rounds rapid and ten rounds. And I was scared stiff to be truthful, but once I got one round off I thought "oh this is great this", and I managed alright after that. But I remember that just like it was yesterday running down to this range with our gas masks and all these gas masks got steamed up, you know, and you couldn't see and what a carry on it was. So that was my first initiation into firing.