

Ian Neal

On Listening Patrol

I used to go on what I call listening patrol, which was where you had to go out with a small patrol and pick a spot where you could set yourself up to listen to see whether you could pick up anything of a noise from the enemy or movement and things of that nature. And, of course, we picked a spot, or at least I picked a spot, because you couldn't see anything you just sort of picked your spot and started to dig in. And, of course, I found that we were in a graveyard, and we dug in and there's an awful stench and we were digging into a grave. And, oh, I always remember, I'll never forget that, that was really something. But that was a patrol which was considered essential, and then we went there and stayed there for a time to listen, but didn't hear anything of any consequence so we came back.