

## **Henry Bell**

### **Japanese Attack**

Well, I was in this hole, six foot deep hole. I could barely see over the top and the Japanese attacked. Ferocious it was. I could just see over the top and we couldn't do a thing. We couldn't fire rifles or anything else. We just had to just stay there. I wasn't happy at all I can tell you. I don't mind when I'm able to fight by myself but I wasn't. There was a summerhouse on top of the hill and I found out later it was full of old parachutes and things, rubbish, and it took fire. It lit up the whole of the scene, if you call it Dante's Inferno. It was a sight I shall never forget as long as I live. Coming towards me was a line of Japanese. The ones in front weren't armed they were carrying haversacks, subsequently found out they were full of phosphorous grenades and they were throwing them. And the others were coming along behind and I particularly remember one large, just I think he was a sergeant but he had a sword, he was beating them with the flat of the sword and driving them on. And, of course, our own people were up the top and they were firing over the top of us, you know, we were in between the two. Somebody at the top called out "Corporal Bell, Corporal Bell get out of there quick". I cannot because to get out I would have to climb over the top, stick my backside up in the air and no way was I going to do that. I just stayed where we were. The rest of us were quite happy to do so we stayed where we were. Fortunately they never reached the telephone exchange they were beaten back, but that was the first attack. It was a ferocious one, and, as I say, it was lit up with this burning shed and it was really a sight I shall never forget. I was terrified.