

## **Ronald Mallabar**

### **VE Day**

It became known that the Germans had surrendered when I was operating a field switchboard out in the open. Somebody managed to get into the RSM's truck and steal a crate of brandy. It became a legend in battalion headquarters after that that Mallabar had sat operating this switchboard, Mallabar was a non-drinker and non-smoker, he was as drunk as a lord operating a switchboard and chain smoking cigarettes, so that my memory of events on the night the Germans surrendered are a bit blurred by that because I really wasn't a drinker at all at that stage and I certainly didn't smoke. The next morning I was standing in a ditch vomiting blood, incidentally. And there was a great long column of Russians who'd been freed were meandering along the road past me and one of them looked down at me and said "Nicht good, ah?"