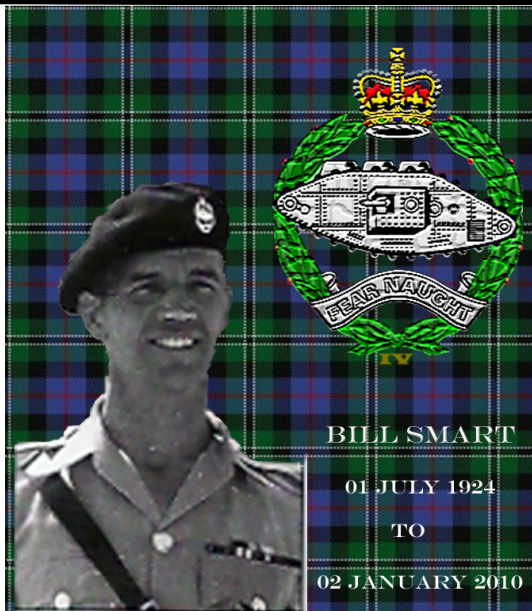


Home of the Fourth Royal Tank Regiment

IV



IV



Major (Staff QM) Leophwin Sydney Arthur (Bill) Smart

Bill was born in Western-Super-Mare on 1st July 1924. His mother died when he was just 4 years old. His father re-married and the family moved to Sutton in Surrey where Bill was brought up. Aged 16, Bill joined the Merchant Navy where he served throughout the war on oil tankers, most notably with Arctic convoys to Russia. Colleagues during his latter army service would express surprise on seeing his Atlantic Medal. Such was his modesty that few knew of his WW2 service.

At the end of the war he left the Merchant Navy and enlisted in the Army, serving initially with the 4th RTR in Palmanova (Italy), Qassasin (Egypt) and Shandur (Canal Zone). He quickly rose through the ranks and whilst attending a six week D&M instructors course at Bovington, he met his future wife Jean, who was serving there with the ATS. They were married in 1949, soon after Bills return to Bovington as a D&M Schools instructor. Bill was a quiet, unassuming person, very supportive to his family with strong moral convictions, yet was most diligent and committed to a career in the Army.

In the early 1950s he was posted as an instructor to the Boys Squadron at Bovington and in 1954 to the 8th RTR in Paderborn as SSM of A Squadron. A colleague remembers it was not an easy posting for him to begin with, for it took time for Bill to be accepted by his Sergeants as he was a strict "teetotaler". However, he held strong to his principles and became much respected. After 4 years as SSM, he joined the QM's staff as RQMS where he remained with the 8th in Tidworth and Fallingbostal. On promotion to RSM in 1960, he was posted firstly to the TA in Edinburgh and then to 4RTR in Celle.

After a spell in Aden, he was commissioned in August 1964 and appointed MTO with 4RTR, by then stationed in Malaya. His Short Service commission was duly converted to a Regular commission and postings as Quartermaster followed with 5RTR in Tidworth and Wolfenbittel where, on disbandment of the 5th, he remained with 3RTR. He was Staff QM at MOD(A) and GS(OR)17 in the early 1970s and finally on the HQ DRAC Staff from where he retired in 1979.

Bill died on 2nd January 2010 and was married to Jean for over 60 years. She survives him as does their son Ronald and Bills brother Edgar. Rest in peace Bill.

The Regimental Collect

"Almighty God, whose perfect love casteth our fear, mercifully grant that thy servants of the Royal Tank Regiment may Fear Naught but to fall from thy favor; for his Sake in whom Thou art well pleased, Thy Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.



FOR THE MEMORIES