

Service Person Record & Images: Military Service Years

Name: GLASS EDWARD BENJAMIN (Ted)



Service No: 258804

Armed Force: ARMY

Enlistment At/Date: JULY 1942

Training: ADDINGTON, TRENTHAM

Embarkations: SHIP AQUITANIA

Rank/s: LANCE SERGEANT

Service: Army July 1941 October 1945

CIVILIAN LIFE

Address before Enlistment:	BLUECLIFFS STATION, MESOPOTAMIA STATION
Next of Kin on Embarkation:	MR A J GLASS MT NESSING ALBURY
Relationship Status:	FATHER
Occupation:	<i>SHEPHERD</i>
Single/Married:	<i>SINGLE/ Married Margaret J S Morrison 1947 and they had 3 Children</i>

PRISONER OF WAR

Capture Details:

POW Serial Number:

MILITARY DECORATIONS

Medals and Awards: **MILITARY MEDAL 1945, WAR MEDAL, NZ SERVICE MEDAL**

OTHER DETAILS

Date of Birth & Place:	7 OCTOBER 1920
Date of Death & Place:	4 Jan 2016
Cause of Death:	
Burial/Cremation:	Timaru Returned Service Section
Age:	95yrs

MILITARY SERVICE BIOGRAPHY:



Photo:
Me on Jane with dogs.

Appellants Commended

Dr. P. R. Woodhouse, farmer, Bluecliffs, St. Andrews, appealed on behalf of an employee, Edward Benjamin Glass, a shepherd, on the grounds of public interest and hardship. The appellant said that Glass was the only permanent shepherd and if he were called up before the shearing was completed it would seriously interfere with the work of the Bluecliffs Station and of the adjoining property, the Wena Run. Although only 20 years of age, Glass, who was a capable man, was in charge of over 8000 sheep. He had a boy of 16 years to help, and temporary assistance for the lambing. Early shearing commenced at the end of October and continued into November, and the main shearing would commence at the end of November and continue into December, and sometimes later according to the weather conditions. Dr. Woodhouse, who said that he was very reluctant to make an appeal, offered to provide a horse for his employee should he enter a mounted unit for his territorial training. If he could secure a capable substitute he would release Glass, who was anxious to take up his training, immediately.

The chairman commended the appellant on his willingness to co-operate.

The appeal was dismissed, conditional on appellant not being called into camp before April 1, 1941.

I took up a shepherds position at Blue Cliffs Station - I was paid 2 pound a week. While working there I was called up for the Territorial Army. It was lambing time, so Dr Woodhouse appealed and got me out of joining.

Below: Form from the National Service Department - 2nd October 1940

N.S.-42.)

National Service Department,
Wellington, C. I., 2nd Oct., 1940.

238804 (Registration No.) 10 (Area No.)

The National Service Emergency Regulations 1940 (Regulation 16).

NOTICE CALLING PERSON UP FOR SERVICE WITH THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.

Mr. EDWARD BENJAMIN GLASS
Shepherd.
 (Occupation.)
 C/- Dr. Woodhouse,
"Bluecliffs", St. Andrews.

I HEREBY notify you that by notice published in the Gazette this day pursuant to the above-mentioned regulations, you have been called up by lot for service with the Territorial Force, as being a Reservist of the First Division.

You will be required to report at an early date for examination before a Medical Board, and later to a mobilization centre if the Medical Board passes you as fit for service. You will be notified in due course by an authorized officer of the time and place for reporting.

It is unnecessary for you to leave your employment until immediately prior to the date on which you may be required to report to a mobilization centre.

A man called up by lot for service with the Territorial Force remains a member of the Reserve, and thus remains liable (if he has attained or attains the age of 21 years but has not attained the age of 41 years) to be called up by lot for service overseas with the armed forces, but he is not otherwise liable for transfer from the Territorial Force to any other armed force of which the members are liable as such members for service outside New Zealand.

J. H. Munro
Director.

Your attention is drawn to the information printed on the back hereof.

N.S.-42.)

(over.)

Enclosed is the paper clipping of
Dr P R Woodhouse's appeal



Eventually the Army caught up with me while at Mesopotamia (1942). Before I left I put a down payment on a farm - "Sunny Vale" Rocky Gully Road, Albury (I paid 150 pound to PGG).

Photo: Mum and my dogs - Tip, Fay, Mick and Glen

In July 1942 I went to a military camp at Addington raceway for 6 weeks. I was then moved up to Trentham Military Camp. We marched from Trentham to Paikakoriki - which was a 2 day march. There was a bit of a row one day and they had to close the pub.



After three final leaves, I sailed on the passenger liner Aquitania (it was a mighty ship and 1600 American Marines replaced us at Paikakoriki) for Egypt. The ship sailed south of NZ into cold waters. There were three mess decks and I remember every meal time going downstairs for meals. Sea sickness would start and back up to the deck I would go! (I took my teeth out first and put them in my pocket!). It took a few days for me to come right.

We called into Freemantle - the boat was too big to get right into the harbour. We were not allowed to leave the boat. There was a submarine scare and we set sail into the Indian Ocean with a destroyer as an escort. The boat was too quick for the subs. I remember the flying fish landing on the ship deck. We went over the Equator, I can't remember if there was a ceremony.

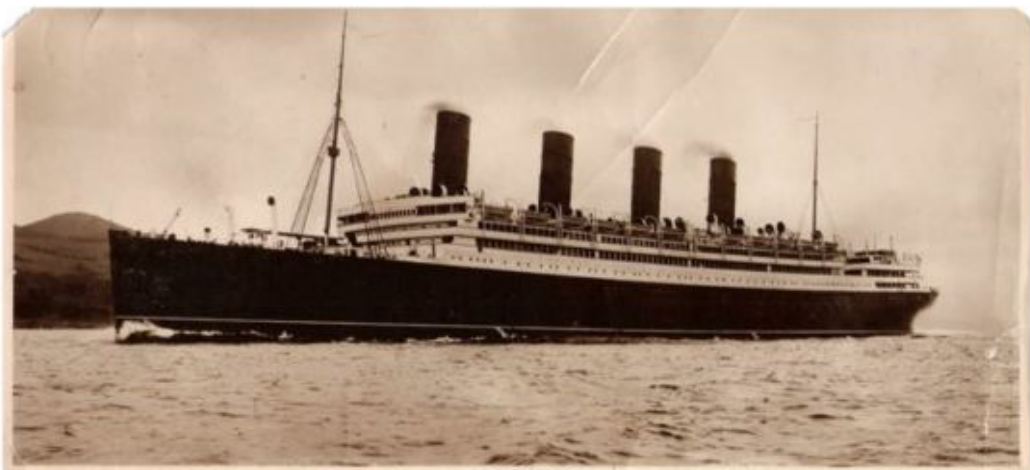




Photo: Enjoying a bottle of beer at the Bath Club - Cairo
Curly Bluett, Myself, Jim O'Connell and Charlie Kenny.

We arrived at Port Tufick (on the Suez Canal) and went by train to Maadi. After training in the infantry for a while the earlier reinforcements were sent home and we were lined up to replace them. Luckily I was sent to Signal School, along with Charlie Kenny, for 3 months so I missed out on the El Alamein Campaign (June - October 1942). When the division came back to Maadi I was posted to the 23 Battalion as a Sig.

We marched from Maadi to Alexandria - 80 mile, but the conditions were too tough so we ended up getting a ride in trucks.

We were sent to Italy (The Italian Campaign) arriving at Taranto. Our first action was crossing the Sangro River. I remember hanging onto a rope with water around my waist then climbing a steep hill where luckily there was no enemy waiting. A fighter plane flew overhead so I let him have it - this was the only time I fired a gun in anger. I was responsible for mending broken communication lines and worked the wireless.

On Christmas Day 1943 we ate turkey just as if we were at home, the officers served it. We were at Castelfrentano (East Italy). I woke up in the morning (Boxing Day) there was a foot of snow and I had to go back to the front line. Luckily we (six of us from Head Quarters) found a house to shelter in. We took it in turns to look for German patrols, who dressed up in white uniforms and were prowling around amongst the trees. They would come in and take people away as prisoners. We had a pick to hit if we heard anything suspicious or any movement.

Next we shifted over to the other side of Italy in trucks - 23 Battalion in reserve. We watched the bombing of the Monastery at Monte Cassino – 1200 guns firing and also planes dropping tons of bombs. We went into Cassino to relieve the Maori Battalion the next night. We sheltered in a broken down house and only went out at night, because of the German snipers.

We put in one week of being shelled. In the wet weather the shell and bomb holes filled with water and we couldn't move. There were lots of casualties. We only moved at night and we had the artillery firing smoke shells to cover us so the enemy couldn't see. Then the wind changed and we had to retire to where we started from. That night we were replaced by the Indians and we returned back to our base - about 2 miles away.



We went up to Florence and were sent on leave to Ancona Beach. Blow me down I got jaundice - I was crook. Something to do with my liver and my skin went yellow. They put me on a hospital boat and I went down to Bari Hospital, where I rested in bed for six weeks. We were fed like lords, but were not allowed to eat fatty food. I was given chicken (I swear it was rabbit) and ice cream.

I got back to Division at Faenza on Christmas Day 1944. I was promoted to Corporal and was in charge of laying lines at headquarters company. Winter time bogged us down and we had a jeep to help run wire from here. There were lots of canals and rivers to cross and we had flame throwers on tanks. Not long after I was promoted to Lance Sergeant.

I was awarded a Military Medal (MM) for personally keeping line communications to the two forward companies of the Battalion on 11th -12th April 1945, this played a big part in the success of the operation. On 20th April I led a small line party to establish communications and repaired lines in spite of the heaviest shelling and mortar. Once we got the Germans on the run we relied more on wireless. We all had a pee in the Po River.

Lieutenant General Bernard Freyberg, our commander, took over the hotels in Rome, Florence and Venice and put New Zealander's in charge. I had 3 - 4 days leave at Florence and was promoted to Sergeant.

The Battalion went up to Trieste - June 1945 and confronted Marshal Josip Tito (he lead the Yugoslav guerrilla movement) and his army. They did not have any modern weapons, rode donkeys and included women. Freyberg gave Tito, 24 hours to leave. We thought that we might have another fight on our hands, but thankfully he withdrew. I then went on leave to Milan and up to the border of Switzerland.

The war was finally over so we returned to Maadi - Egypt, then came home on the ship Strathmore (October 1945). The journey took 3 weeks. There were rough seas, but my tummy was fine thankfully. We called into Melbourne on the way home, where we drank the place dry.

My parents met me at Timaru railway station and took me home to Albury. All my dogs were still alive except one. While I had been away the farm next door (Burrells) came up for sale, so Dad bought a further 150 acres, making my farm a total of 470 acres.





USEFUL WEB LINKS FOR REFERENCE:

1. [Auckland War Memorial Museum - Online Cenotaph](#)
 - A comprehensive database of New Zealand service personnel.
2. [New Zealand War Graves Project](#)
 - Contains images and information about New Zealand war graves and memorials around the world.
3. [New Zealand History - NZ Wars and Conflicts](#)
 - Provides detailed accounts and images of New Zealand's involvement in various wars, including WW1 and WW2.
4. [Archives New Zealand - War History](#)
 - Access to war-related records and images held by Archives New Zealand.
5. [Te Papa Tongarewa - Collections Online](#)

Features war-related collections, including personal stories and photographs of New Zealand soldiers

DATA SOURCE AND COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

All information and images included in this document have been sourced from various archives, databases, and personal contributions. The primary sources include:

- Ruth Campbell. Lorraine Rolton
- South Canterbury Genealogy Society
- Auckland War Memorial Museum - Online Cenotaph
- New Zealand War Graves Project

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Website: <https://scgenealogy.nz/>

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