

Our great-grandfather

From Freddie Blaney (3C) and Beatrice Blaney (RC)



This is our 96-year-old great-grandfather, Major Ronald Morgan. We usually visit him at Easter but have not seen him since Christmas because of the coronavirus.

At the beginning of World War 2 he was too young to join the army, so he was a member of the Home Guard. The Home Guard was a volunteer force to defend Britain in case of invasion.

Once he was old enough, he joined the Royal Tank Regiment in the British army. This is a picture of him when he had just finished his training to be an officer. He joined the 7th Armoured Division known as the "Desert Rats". Sent to France just after the D-Day landings, he took part in battles in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.





Ronald Morgan was in command of the first group of tanks to enter the Belgian town of Ghent, when it was liberated by the Allied forces. To the left is a picture of his tank leading the Allies into Ghent, cheered by local civilians. To the right is a picture showing a local girl sitting on his tank. Our great-grandfather is the man on the left.



On VE day itself, our great-grandfather was leading his tanks through North-West Germany towards the border with Denmark. When he heard over the radio that peace had been declared, he stopped the tanks and they all fired their guns into the air to celebrate. Unfortunately, there was no time to party. Our great-grandfather remained in Germany after the war to help keep the peace and did not return home for almost another year. Only then was he able to celebrate with his family.

Freddie Blaney (3C) and Beatrice Blaney (RC) (pictured in front of uniforms of the Royal Tank Regiment at the National Army Museum)

