



This is a photo of a certificate my Grandad, William Cliff, received during the Liverpool Blitz.

Before he was called up to serve as a P.O.W camp officer in Wales during the Second World War, my grandad's job was a carter . A carter used to transport goods from the Liverpool Docks into the city by horse and cart. These horses were big shire horses and they used to pull carts full of essential wartime goods weighing 5 or more tonnes (over 5000 Kg). The horses were worked in teams of 2 and were used before lorries. Often these horse teams walked 20 miles a day pulling the heavy loads. They were essential to the wartime effort.

During the Liverpool Blitz in 1941, my grandad, aged 19, led 24 shire horses to safety as the stable they were being kept in was in great danger of being bombed. He bravely walked them through the streets of Liverpool to a safe place. Ironically their safe haven was in fact a bomb crater which was the result of another bomb from the previous night! However he saved all horses in the stable that night.

In doing what he did, meant that the carters the next day could continue transporting their goods from the docks to the city with the horses.

My grandad received a certificate of bravery from the RSPCA for his courage and humanity during the severe air raid on 2nd May 1941. This is something my family are very proud of and whilst he is no longer alive, his love of horses remains strong in his granddaughters and his great grand daughters.

From Lucy Cliff