

**Bill Bateman****Reactions before and during Battle**

When we were waiting we were a bit dothy. I was like, I don't know what the other lads like. But it was a queer feeling. "Now", I says "I'm going forward", and I've never been forward before so I says "Well, I'm going to make the best of it". So Colonel Adair give us the re-assurance. I think meself he, I don't know whether he'd been in the First World War I think, but he said to me, he said "Don't worry", he said "you'll not feel the one that hits you". He said "If your name's on one", he says "you'll get it". And once we started walking forward everything seemed to fall into place. Your fear had gone, you were just more like training and it was like that all the time. I forgot about what was round us.