

Richard Atkinson

Mobilisation

Well, I was at work and I worked for this building firm on the site, and we only had half an hour for dinner and I come in for dinner and my mother says to me "It's announced on the radio they're calling for Territorials". "Oh", I said "I'm not going back". So I just went round the house and I said "Look, they're calling the Terriers up, I'm a Territorial, I'll be back for my money tonight". So I went home, I had a bath, put my uniform on and I was ready when the copper come to the door with my papers. He says "There's your calling up papers", so away I'd go to the drill hall. I remember we went in the drill hall, because we had moved away about a mile from the drill hall by this time. We went down, reported, everybody had to report by six o'clock. Went in and reported, all your kit and everything. And the first thing they said to me, I can remember it as plain as anything, "Atkinson, you're now no longer a Territorial". And on your shoulder in those days you wore a 'T', Territorial. He says "You're now no longer a Territorial soldier, take that 'T' down and that Territorial (the brass you know) off your shoulder. You're now a Regular soldier". The first words to you, which I did. Threw them away. Now in these days wished you'd kept. You had a Territorial lapel badge, 'TA', and they took that off you. They said "That's finished with. No Territorial Army now you're all Regulars".