



11th November
2022

Remembrance Day Special Newsletter by Mr Fry

Dear All,

I felt it appropriate to contribute towards commemorating and remembering everyone who fought in the protection of our nation and others. Both of my grandfathers fought in the Second World War.

My grandfather on my mother's side was in the US Army based here in The UK during World War 2, and he was part of the first wave setting up forward supply and comms lines for others in Mainland Europe. He trained as a paratrooper in the US Army and could have been involved in the DD landings, but we weren't sure. He finished his career in the US army in the late 1960s at the rank of Colonel. He retired to the UK with my grandmother and family to a house in Southwell in 1970.

His highest-ranking medal being the bronze star, which is for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone. It was first awarded in Feb 1944, so it could have been awarded for DDay, but it could also have been for his service during the Korean War. He talked to family loosely about difficult conflict situations there, including getting his troops out of an ambush situation on a mountain pass. My Aunt said that the big thing she remembered from their chats is his steering to the learning points that the human spirit is generally bigger than the obstacles before it, and to never concede.

My Grandfather on my father's side fought in the British Army and was stationed in Italy, Algeria and Greece in the first army of the Royal Artillery and was a dispatch rider as post corporal. He often had to evade gunfire whilst riding his motorcycle between camp bases.

Both were lucky enough to survive the war and went on to enjoy happy lives. Without those two men fighting, and my grandmothers keeping our countries going back home, I wouldn't be here. So, I thank them and the countless others who fought for our freedom.

I would also like to thank; Luke Jackson of Eagle Building for the kind donation of the wood for our displays, the Handicentre at Southwell for their donations of fence posts, Chris at HollyBeck Nurseries for his donation of the green canes for our lovely pop bottle poppies, everyone who sent in bottle ends to make the poppies and finally my Dad and Step Mum and Mr Barker for their help in producing the figures you can see on display.

As a school, we marked the day with a minute silence on the school playground at 11am. Our Year 6 children went to St Michael's church and joined representatives of the Royal British Legion at the war memorial to pay their respects.

Mr Fry

