

**WW2 MEDALS, SERVICE BOOK, BADGES ETC GROUP TO A TANK DRIVER & 8<sup>TH</sup> ARMY VETERAN WHO JOINED THE ROYAL TANK CORPS IN 1935, SERVING UNTIL 1946. HE SERVED IN EGYPT, LIBYA, TUNISA, SICILY & ITALY 1937 – DEC 1943. MANY SCARCE SHOTS OF VICKERS MEDIUM MARK II TANKS IN THE DESERT**

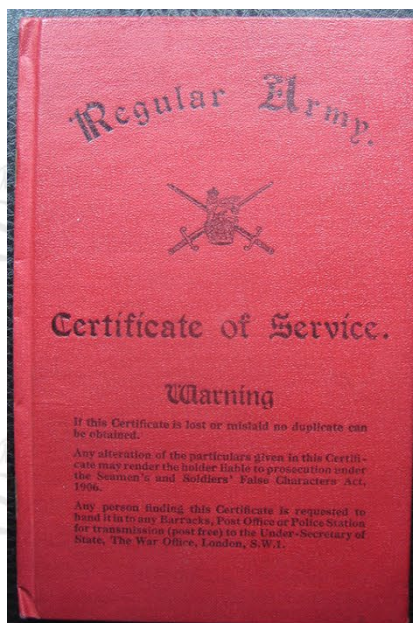


1939-45 STAR, AFRICA STAR, ITALY STAR, DEFENCE MEDAL AND WAR MEDALS, IN NAMED BOX OF ISSUE, WITH UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR ENCLOSURE SLIP, MEDAL PACKETS, REGULAR ARMY CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BOOK, AUTOGRAPH BOOK, VARIOUS TANK CORPS BADGES ETC

A very fine and comprehensive award, militaria and document group to 7885576 W/Corporal Rowland Arthur Emerson Royal Tank Corps/Royal Armoured Corps. Regular Army certificate of service details his enlistment into the Royal Tank Corps on 15 February 1935, 11 November 1937 to Royal Armoured Corps and later transferring to the Army reserves on 1 April 1946

Emerson, who was from Redhill and was born in 1916, was a tank driver who served in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia 11 November 1937 to 28 August 1943, then to Sicily and Italy 29 August 1943 until 10 December 1943. He then served in the UK until discharge in 1946. Exact details of his units are not known; however his autograph book (14 entries) has several autographs for men of 44<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment, one for 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment, 4 October 1940, which suggests these are his units. Another notes he was in Libya in 1940.





RAC Records  
Serial No. 4228 Army Form B.108.

**Regular Army.**

**Certificate of Service.**

Army No. 7885576  
Surname EMERSON  
Christian Names ROWLAND ARTHUR  
Enlisted at Doncaster  
Enlisted on 15 February 1935  
Corps for which enlisted ROYAL TANK CORPS

NOTE.—Attention is specially directed to Pages 2, 6 & 7.

2 (This page should be entirely free from erasure.)

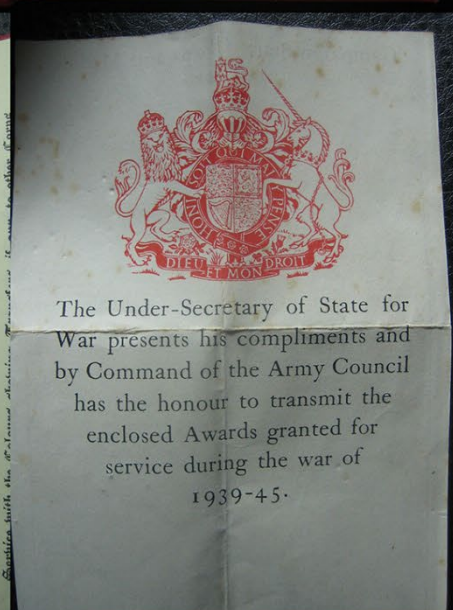
**Final Assessments of Conduct and Character on Leaving the Colours.**

Military Conduct Exemplary

Testimonial Regular soldier since 1935. A very good capable M.C.O. with good mechanical knowledge on good driver & wheels & other vehicles. Clever handworking & honest & sober.

The above assessments have been read to the soldier.

Signature CAVALRY on TANK ROYAL ARMOUR or on DISBURS 20 DEC 1945  
Place RECORD OFFICE BARNET, HERTS.  
Date O.C. CAV RAC/RECOF



To Mrs. Emerson.

The Desert Tanks

In peace the Libyan desert lay,  
A loathed and hated land.  
It's life and water sucked away,  
By burning sun and sand.

The greedy claws of bloody war,  
Stretched out to Egypt's riches,  
It finds this desert stands before,  
Defended by the British.

To and fro the armies fight,  
The aggressor and defender,  
Both using all their armoured might,  
To gain the shout "Surrender."

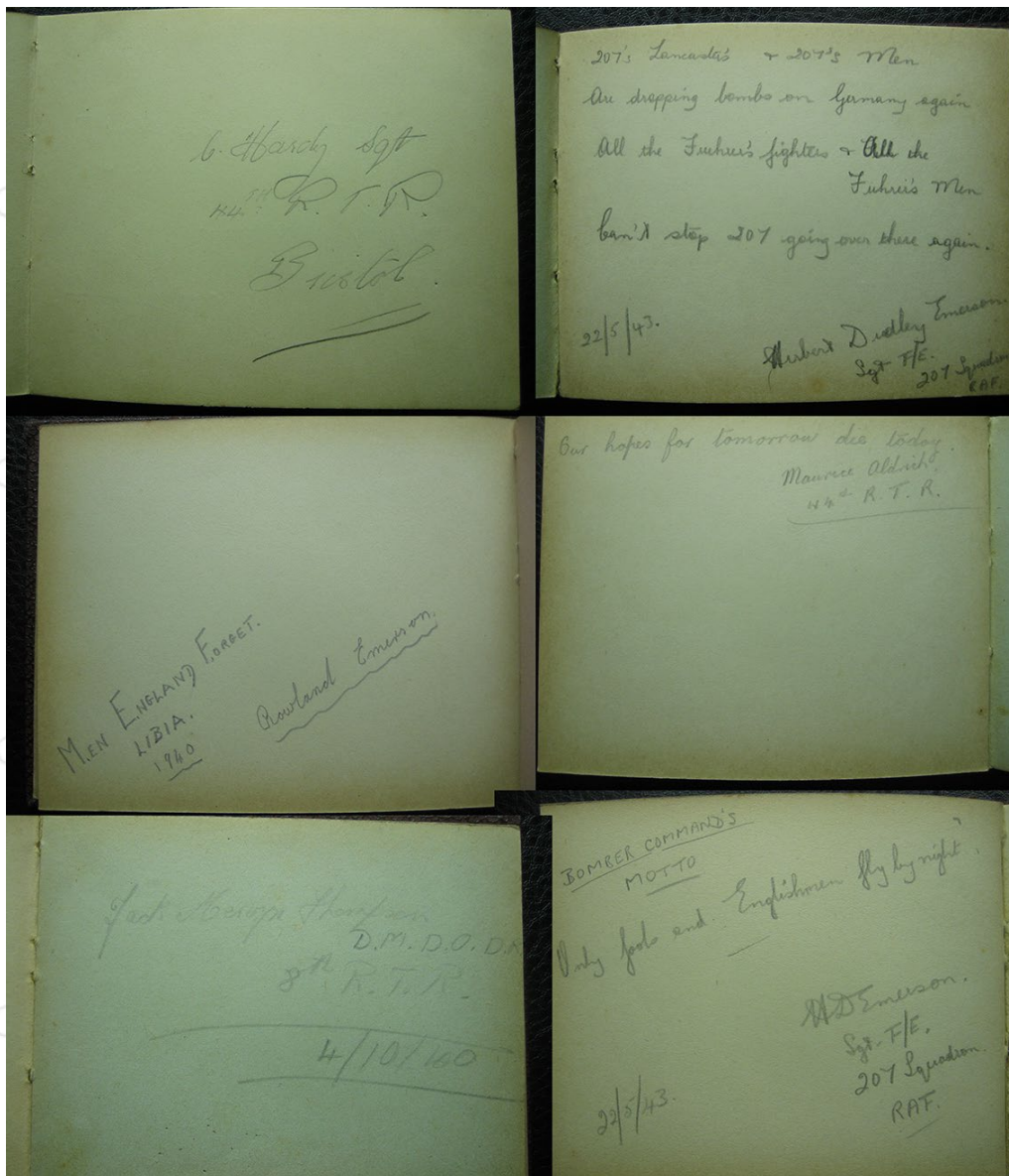
The battling tanks were red with heat,  
In formation snarled and crawl,  
Advancing till the foe they meet,  
To conquer or to fall.

The English tanks were old and slow,  
With lighter steel and gun,  
Yet were on wave of beaten foe,  
Lay rotting in the sun.

Unnumbered times they bravely came,  
Twice Egypt and its treasure,  
The Germans encircled themselves again,  
The sand, the dust, the weather.

These heroes have our grateful thanks,  
And also there are others,  
Those who bore those men of tanks,  
The British Bulldog's Mothers.

18-7-42 A.H.R.



## CONTENTS OF THE GROUP

- 1) Medal group in box of issue, with enclosure slip
- 2) regular army certificate of service
- 3) 8<sup>th</sup> Army Veterans enamel badge
- 4) Small Tank Corps badge, pin broken away from rear
- 5) N.A.A.F.I cap badge, belonged to his wife Dorothy, Chief Clerk N.A.A.F.I
- 6) Tank Corps cuff links
- 7) Autograph book, 14 entries; himself, several Tank Corps comrades, his brother (an RAF Flight Engineer) and his wife. Most entries circa 1940, his brothers 1943
- 8) Poem entitled 'The Desert Tanks' written to Emerson's mother on 18 July 1942
- 9) 2 x snapshot photos taken in the desert

Emerson is also entitled to the 8<sup>th</sup> Army clasp, as noted on his medal card and enclosure, presumably this has been lost