

## **ARMY PERSONNEL RECORDS**

**AND**

## **FAMILY INTEREST AND GENERAL ENQUIRIES**



**ARMY**

## **HISTORICAL DISCLOSURES**

- The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps the records of former members of our Armed Forces for administrative use after their discharge.
- The Army Personnel Centre - Historical Disclosures Section - has access to Army records dating back to the 1920s (except Officers and Soldiers of the Foot Guards Regiments where some records for earlier service are held) and can supply copies of documents to the next-of-kin of deceased former soldiers and officers and more limited information to other enquirers unless 25 years or more has passed since the subject's death.
- Records of service prior to then, such as World War 1 records, are held at the National Archives (formerly Public Record Office), Kew.

## **INFORMATION HELD ON FILE**

- There is not as much detail held on Army personal files as people think. Army files are paper-based records that follow the career of the individual and make no mention of theatres of operation or action seen.
- The contents of Officers' files can be disappointingly sparse, particularly for Officers who served prior to the Second World War.
- Medals and awards are recorded but citations are **never** included. Only very rarely does a file contain a soldier's photograph, and photographs are not held in the Archive.
- Some files contain more information than others and we have no way of knowing what any particular file holds until we have looked at it. Regimental War Diaries, which are held at the National Archives (see 'Helpful Contact Addresses') may be of more use than Army personal files in providing an insight into an individual's war experience.

## **THE SERVICE PROVIDED**