

**141<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps**  
**Books & Oral Resources**



Listed below are the main resources for 141RAC – books and sound archives.

**Books about  
141RAC:**

*The Story of 79<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division, October 1942 – June 1945* (by Borthwick, Maj John) Printed just two months after the war ended, this book covers all of Hobart's Funnies. 141RAC is mentioned throughout. The men were issued a copy late 1945 and many a veteran had a copy in their library.

*The History of "A" Squadron 141st Regiment R.A.C. (The Buffs.) June, 1940 – November, 1945* (by Maj. Storrar, George) [The story of A Sqn written by its commanding officer Maj. Storrar.]

*"Playboys"* (by Bailey, Harry) [Playboys is the history of B Sqn written by one time Intelligence Officer, Capt Harry Bailey. Playboys is one of the very best regimental accounts since it provides multiple character sketches of the men in the Squadron, both Officers and Other Ranks. Harry Bailey also wrote up much of the Normandy War Diary which is one of the richer Diaries available.]

*Historical Records of The Buffs Royal East Kent Regiment (3rd Foot) Formerly designated The Holland Regiment and Prince George of Denmark's Regiment 1919 – 1948* by Knight, O.B.E., Col C. R. B. [The main regimental account of The Buffs dealing with all the Battalions. As the history of an infantry regiment, this one provides one of the better accounts of its armoured offspring, 141RAC.]

*Half Term Report, An Autobiography* by Douglas Home, William [One of three books by the officer who became notorious for disobeying an order and receiving a prison sentence as a result. *Sins of Commission* deals specifically with the episode.]

*Flame Thrower* by Wilson, Andrew [Perhaps the most well-known account dealing with 141RAC, there are many reprints across the years as a result.]

*Mr Home pronounced Hume, An Autobiography* by Douglas Home, William

*Sins of Commission* by Douglas Home, William

*In At The Finish, North West Europe 1944/45* by Smith, John G [A fantastically rich memoir full of daily detail.]

*Turning Points, In a Life With War, The memoirs of Kenneth Macksey* by Macksey, Kenneth [The author became a well-known writer on military history and here provides a brief account of his time with 141RAC. He was badly wounded in the actions at the Channel Ports. He also writes about William Douglas Home's insubordination.]

*The Churchill Crocodile: 141 (The Buffs) Regiment RAC Flame Throwers in Normandy* by Saunders, Tim & Hone, Richard. [Provides the first account of the regiment as a whole from D-Day to the battles for the Channel ports. A key attribute of this narrative is the bringing together of the tank action interconnected with the infantry units 141RAC was supporting.]

Other Books:

141RAC is served pretty well for accounts but it can be useful to read others to help gain a better understanding of what it was like to serve in a tank regiment. The following books are well worth reading to get different perspectives and insights.

*Warriors for the Working Day* by Elstob, Peter  
*Mailed Fist* by Foley, John

*Tank! 40 hours of battle, August 1944* by Tout, Ken

*Tank Action, An Armoured Troop Commander's War 1944-45*  
by Render, David; Tootal, Stuart

And from those who served in the desert or Italy. [Much of the day-to-day life of tank crews was the same.]

*Brazen Chariots, A graphic first-hand account of tank warfare in the Western Desert. November -December 1941.*  
and *The Gods Were Neutral* by Crisp, Robert

*The 8.15 to War, Memoirs of a Desert Rat, El Alamein, Wadi Halfa, Tunis, Salerno, Garigliano, Normandy and Holland Roach*, Peter

*Jake Wardrop's Diary, A Tank Regiment Sergeant's Story*  
Ed. By Forty, George

*Armoured Odyssey, 8th Royal Tank Regiment in The Western Desert 1941-42, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, 1943-44, Italy, 1944-45* by Hamilton, M.C., Stuart

*Alamein to Zem Zem* by Douglas, Keith

*Cassino to the River Po Italy 1944-45, A personal account of the life and action in a tank troop* by Martin, Lt G. W.

There are of course many, many more memoirs and histories, these are all covered in my [Bibliography](#).

**IWM sound  
recordings:**

[Vincent Brandi](#)  
[Bob Buttal](#)  
[Joseph Ellis](#)  
[Thomas John Jenkins](#)  
[Geoffrey Robert Kirk](#)  
[William Douglas Home](#)  
[Reginald William Webb](#)

**New Zealand  
Tauranga City  
Libraries:**

IWM Collections [page](#).  
Memoirs, photos and recordings from [Tpr Ernie Cox, A Sqn](#).

JAS 08/25