

Gnr. James Twitney
No.6 Commando

Pte. Norman Trowman
No.6 Commando

BIRMINGHAM COMMANDOS IN PATROL

TWO Birmingham Commandos formed part of a fighting patrol which recently raided enemy-held territory east of the River Maas.

They are Gnr. James Twitney, of 15, North Roundhay, South Yardley, and Pte. Norman Trowman, of 44, Allman-road, Erdington, the C.O.'s batman and runner.

The patrol went into no-man's-land in Holland in the deep snow to comb a wood and to get information of the enemy.

Twitney was carrying a wireless set on his back, and, owing to the thickness of the wood in which lurked the Huns dressed in snow suits, he experienced great difficulty in crawling through the undergrowth and snow. The aerial became caught in the branches. To add to his difficulties the Huns began a mortar barrage, and fragments from one bomb damaged his wireless set and smashed the aerial.

He took off his set and tried to communicate with his base about some Commandos who had become casualties. With the assistance of a sergeant he eventually got through to H.Q.

Twitney then found that a piece of shrapnel had nicked his wrist. He obtained another aerial and went on with the patrol, crawling over ice which cracked under him.

Trowman arrived on the scene to contact Twitney and find out what had occurred. He then went off with his C.O. to another position where he and his officer tried to find some civilians who might give them information of the enemy.