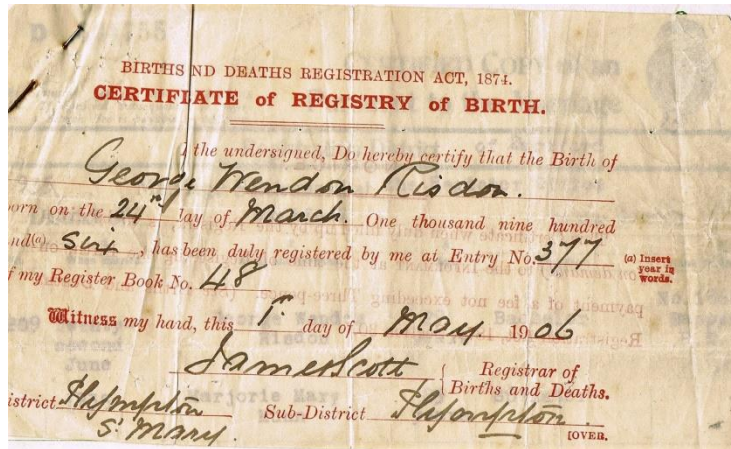


## Sgt George Wendon Risdon



Uncle Tony, first cousin once removed, was born in 1906 and died 13 May 1977.

He served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 – 1945.

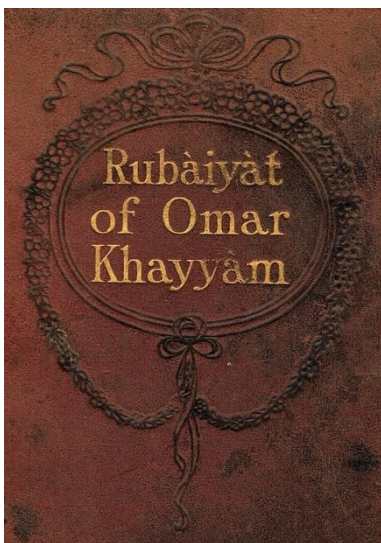
He hardly ever spoke about his time in the war and never to the female members of our family. The reason was that he served in the SOE - Special Operations Executive. His civilian occupation as a surveyor would have made him right for the job. It involved espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance. He was also a keen sportsman – shooting.

His job was to pretend he was out with a ‘mate’ looking frightfully sporty armed with his shotgun pretending he was hunting wild game.

Ahh – his gun was not what it seemed. It was a ‘combi’ gun. Side by side shotguns have a rib down the middle joining the barrels together – the rib on his gun was in fact a rifle.

He was actually hunting stray German soldiers. His particular mission was to assassinate the German officers, thus leaving the ‘ranks’, causing mayhem.

He was captured and served time in **Stalag VIII B** from where he escaped taking with him this slim leather bound copy of the **“Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam”**



On his return to civvy street he resumed his job as a surveyor for the Ordnance Survey – producing the map of the South Hams.

Thank you Uncle Tony

Kate x