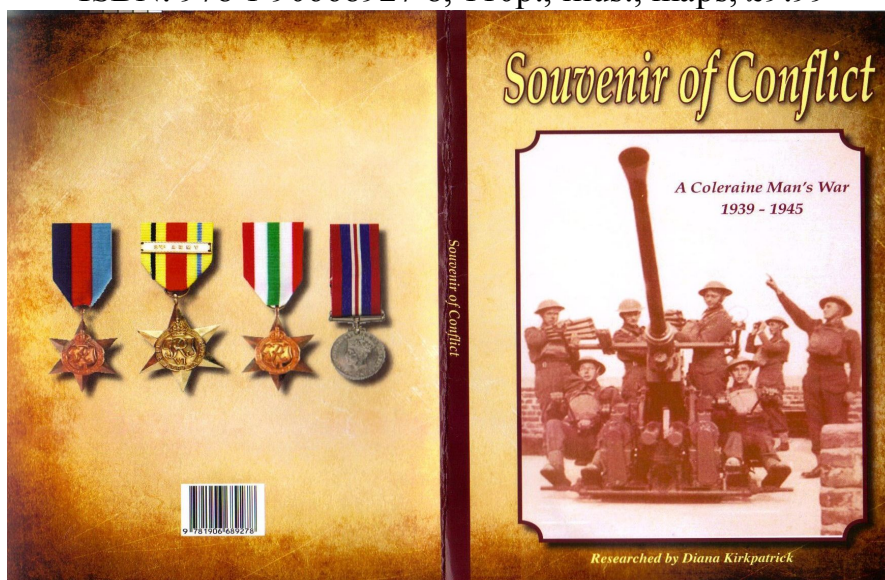


# Souvenir of Conflict: A Coleraine Man's War 1939-1945

*researched by Diana Kirkpatrick*

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From diary notes and a chronological log which lay hidden and forgotten for over 60 years *Souvenir of Conflict* follows the progress of a Coleraine-born Gunner, Harry Cummins, who volunteered for military service in 1939.

Posted initially, in 1940, with the Coleraine Light Anti-Aircraft Battery unit to the desert war in North Africa he was destined to complete his service with 40 Battery of 14<sup>th</sup> West Lothian Royal Scots Regiment in the Italian Campaign of 1943-45. He experienced intense heat in the desert, extreme cold of the Italian winters, the death of comrades and illness. Letters and newspapers sent news to him from home.

This fascinating story does not intend to provide a blow-by-blow account of the war in the Mediterranean theatre. Rather it pieces together information, using carefully researched archive Battery and Regimental Diaries, in support of Gunner Cummins' notes. Only during the long sea journey to Egypt via the Cape, when there was leisure time to write, do we get an insight into his views of an "adventure" which was to last for more than four and a half years without any home leave.

The book is well illustrated with black and white photographs, maps and also colour memorabilia. His daughter has preserved and added to a record which deserves to join the ranks of local military history.

**Proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Army Benevolent Fund.**