



# MILTON KEYNES AT WAR

CRUSADES, CAMPAIGNS AND CONFLICTS

“JOHN HOWARD WAS THE  
FINEST OFFICER IN THE  
BRITISH ARMY”



*‘I went to join the Glider-borne troops in 1941-42, where I was put into John Howard’s Company. He and his company were selected to do the main job on D Day on 5th June 1944. We were one of the first troops to land in Normandy at Pegasus Bridge.*

*‘John Howard, he could do anything you could ask him to do, that’s why he expected you to do it. As part of our training we done a 131 mile route march in 3½ days with 80lbs on our backs. Anybody who fell out of that he was taken out of the operation, ‘cos they would have been a liability.*

*‘John Howard was the finest officer in the British Army, I could honestly say that. He come up from the ranks, from a Corporal to a Major in three years. He was a terrific soldier, nobody can doubt him that, we’d have followed him anywhere.’*



Raymond ‘Titch’ Rayner

**NOTE:** Milton Keynes’ Territorial Army Centre at Blakelands was renamed the John Howard Centre in June 2008 by the Duchess of Gloucester during the city’s Centennial celebrations for the TA. E Company 7 Rifles is Milton Keynes’ own TA Infantry unit based at the centre.’

**DISCOVER**  
MILTON KEYNES