



steam creative writing task

Second World War News Report (KS3)



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Operation 'Fireball', 1943

Myself, two other gunners and a Sergeant were **detailed** to ride a motorbike each from Hemel-Hempstead to Oswestry in Wales, and come back the same day. If we had known what we were in for we would not have felt so happy about it.

The bikes were **obsolete** to say the least. The other chaps' bikes were not so bad, but mine was spitting fire all the way; halfway to Oswestry, it caught fire altogether. The other chaps gave me a hand to put the fire out. Believe me, I was glad to get off it at Oswestry. We made our way back by train to Hemel-Hempstead. On parade next morning, the **C.O.** stopped me and asked how I got on.

Did I detect a twinkle in his eye?

Charles Ferris,
ex-gunner in the Oxfordshire Yeomanry



Charles Ferris, another gunner and Sergeant Parker in 1943

Vocabulary Key

- **Detailed:** appointed to do a task
- **Obsolete:** out of date, doesn't work any more
- **C.O.:** Commanding Officer (the officer in charge)

Read this memory from soldier Charles Ferris about a motorbike ride to Wales in 1943.

Can you write a short news report about Charles's motorbike catching fire?

Try and include:

- A catchy headline
- A quote from one of the soldiers
- A quote from a passer-by