



Clockwise from top left: War veterans Margaret Runcie; William "Bill" Glen; Ailsa Stewart; Ian Ritchie Forsyth; Geoff Payne and John McOwan.

Fife veteran Jimmy, 107, honoured

VE DAY: Kirkcaldy man will be featured in exhibition as part of national celebrations

REBECCA MCCURDY

A 107-year-old Fife veteran will be honoured as part of a captivating virtual VE Day exhibition.

Jimmy Sinclair, from Kirkcaldy will be featured in a photo series commissioned by armed forces charities Legion Scotland and Poppyscotland as part of national celebrations on Friday.

The portrait series tells the story of 15 Scottish veterans from the Second World War and features striking images from their wartime service together with photographs taken recently.

Jimmy Sinclair, who is the UK's oldest surviving veteran, was part of the force which fought against Rommel's troops in the Egyptian desert in 1942.

He battled Nazi forces when he served in Africa as a gunner with the elite Chestnut Troop of the 7th Armoured Division, known as the Desert Rats.

In the pictures, Mr Sinclair is seen with campaign medals, which he does not wear out of respect for his fallen friends.

Reflecting on his wartime experience for the exhibition, Mr Sinclair said: "It's a pity it happened. We didn't treat the Germans as enemies; they were

combatants in battle. Most of them didn't want to die either."

The series, put together by Wattie Cheung, was originally expected to be showcased as part of the 75th VE Day anniversary event in Edinburgh. As the event was cancelled, the celebration has been postponed and the exhibition will be screened as part of a virtual remembrance service.

The 52-year-old photographer from Glasgow captured the images on a Grafflex Super D large format film camera made in the US in the 1940s.

He said: "It has been a pleasure and honour to photograph these amazing people. I always think photography is like a time machine – it captures a moment forever that you can't go back to, to relive and observe another time."

Dr Claire Armstrong, CEO at Legion Scotland said the images will serve as a "breathtaking" reminder of the sacrifice men and women made during the war.

The exhibition can also be viewed at the Legion Scotland and Poppyscotland Facebook pages.

A virtual service of remembrance and tribute concert will be broadcast on Friday on the social media sites.

rmccurdy@thecourier.co.uk



Jimmy Sinclair, the UK's oldest surviving veteran. Pictures: Wattie Cheung.



Sam Crooks.



James Glennie.

IN FRIDAY'S COURIER

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