

## **John Llewellyn Williams**

John Williams was born in February 1913 at Blackhill, Consett in County Durham, where his father worked as a clerk in the ironworks. After John left Blaydon Grammar School, he too began work as a clerk in the ironworks.

In 1932, John Williams joined his local Territorial Army unit, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI, at Consett. When this Company became a Royal Artillery anti-aircraft unit in January 1939, Sergeant Williams transferred to 9 DLI at Chopwell.

When the Second World War began, 9 DLI was mobilised and moved to the Cotswolds to train for war. In January 1940, the battalion went to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force and John Williams was sent to work on lines of communication. After Dunkirk, John Williams rejoined 9 DLI until in March 1941 he was sent to an Officer Cadet Training Unit at Heysham.

In May 1941, John Williams was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the DLI and joined 14 DLI at Hythe. He was then transferred to the Queen's Own Royal West Kents and became a Mortar Officer. John Williams saw action in Sicily and Italy from 1943.

John Williams was demobilised from the Army in March 1946 and when the Territorial Army was revived in 1947, he joined the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Parachute Regiment at Gateshead. This was the old 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI.

*John Williams was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1989 at his home in Consett.*