

Stanley Sidney Savin

Stanley Savin was born in December 1918 in Bayswater, London, where his father was a bus driver. After he left school, Stanley worked in a shop before he was conscripted into the Army in October 1939 and sent north to the DLI's Depot at Brancepeth Castle.

After he had completed his basic training, 4457713 Private Savin was sent with a draft to France to join the British Expeditionary Force. However in the confused fighting during the retreat to Dunkirk, his draft was re-routed to Cherbourg and ordered home. Back in England, Sidney Savin was posted to the 2nd Battalion DLI, then rebuilding after its return from France.

In April 1942, 2 DLI sailed from Glasgow to India. There, after months of intensive amphibious and jungle training, the battalion took part in the unsuccessful campaign in the Arakan against the Japanese forces in Burma.

After the Arakan, Sergeant Savin fell ill with malaria and spent several months in hospital. Then in April 1944, 2 DLI was sent to Kohima as part of the 2nd Division and successfully halted the Japanese advance into India.

In early July 1944, Stanley Savin was offered a commission and he was sent to an Officer Cadet Training Unit in India. Ill health, however, affected his training and he was finally sent back to England in November 1945.

After he left the Army in 1946, Stanley Savin worked for oil companies until he finally retired in 1975.

Stanley Savin was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1989 at his home in Eastbourne.