

William Nolan

William Noble was born in February 1920 in Liverpool, where his father worked as a docker. After he left school, William first found work as a messenger boy. He was 14 years old.

In June 1940, William Noble was conscripted into the Army and was sent for his basic training to the Infantry training Centre at Brancepeth Camp. In late 1941, 4464204 Private Nolan was posted to the 17th Battalion DLI at Folkestone in Kent and then in early 1942 joined the 2nd Battalion DLI at Malton in Yorkshire.

A few weeks later, 2 DLI sailed from Glasgow for India and war service against the Japanese forces in Burma. After training in jungle warfare and seaborne landings, 2 DLI took part in 1943 in the unsuccessful campaign in the Arakan and then in 1944 in the successful relief of Kohima. William Nolan served as a member of the Mortar Platoon in 'A' Company in both these campaigns but also acted as a stretcher bearer at Kohima.

After time spent at Brigade Headquarters and with the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers, William Nolan fell ill. He later rejoined his battalion at Rangoon in Burma.

At the end of the Second World War, Bill Nolan was demobilised from the Army and returned home to Liverpool.

William Nolan was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1996.