

Sidney Shutt

Sidney Shutt was born in April 1912 in Thornley, County Durham, where his father was a butcher. Sidney left his local school when he was 14 years old and began work in a grocer's shop.

In July 1940, Sidney Shutt was conscripted into the Army and was posted to the newly-formed 16th Battalion DLI at Edinburgh for his basic training. On Christmas Day 1942, 16 DLI sailed from Liverpool to Algiers and active service overseas with the 1st Army in Tunisia.

In early March 1943, 16 DLI went into action for the first time at Sedjenane, west of Tunis. The battalion suffered many casualties at the hands of the experienced German troops and 4465664 Private Shutt was just one of the many prisoners taken in the battle. These prisoners were first sent to camps in Italy but after Italy surrendered in September 1943, Sidney Shutt was transferred to a camp in Germany and later to a work camp near Vienna in Austria.

Released by the advancing US forces in 1945, Sidney Shutt was flown home to England and was demobilised from the Army in 1946.

Sidney Shutt was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1997-98 at his home in Thornley.