

Albert Cameron

Albert Cameron was born in January 1919 in Crawcrook, County Durham, where his father worked as a coal miner. After he left school, Tony, as he was always known, went to work in a brickworks before he too went underground, handling pit ponies and working as a putter.

When the Second World War began, Tony Cameron was conscripted into the Army and joined a Royal Artillery anti-aircraft training unit in Carlisle. Once trained, he was posted to an anti-aircraft battery on the Yorkshire coast.

In June 1942, Tony Cameron's battery was posted to Egypt and was stationed by the Suez Canal. Lance Sergeant Cameron also served in Palestine and Syria before the battery was disbanded in Egypt in early 1944 and he was sent to re-train as an infantryman.

After four weeks training, Tony Cameron was posted to Italy and joined the 16th Battalion DLI. In September 1944, during bitter fighting on the Gothic Line, Corporal Cameron was wounded in the back by shrapnel and was evacuated to hospital. After his recovery, he rejoined 16 DLI then in Athens and then, after a period of home leave, served with 16 DLI as part of the Army of Occupation in Austria.

In early 1946, Tony Cameron was demobilised and left the Army. Dissatisfied with his life back underground, he joined the Regular Army and the DLI, serving with the 1st Battalion DLI in Greece. In 1952, whilst serving in Germany, Sergeant Cameron decided to leave the Army and returned to civilian life and mining. Tony Cameron died in April 2000.

Tony Cameron was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1992 at his home in Durham City.