

## **Albert Shippen**

Albert Shippen was born in June 1927 in Spennymoor, County Durham, where his father was a coal miner. Albert's father died when he was 2 years old and his mother when he was 10.

When the Second World War began, Albert was still at school in Spennymoor and, as a member of the Boy Scouts, he worked as a messenger for the ARP and Home Guard. In August 1942, Albert Shippen joined the Army as a boy soldier and was sent to the DLI's Infantry Training Centre at Brancepeth Castle to train as a bugler and bandsman.

Albert Shippen served as a boy soldier until 1944, when he began his adult training. After battle school training at Felton in Northumberland, 4468885 Private Shippen volunteered for the Parachute Regiment but ill health prevented this move.

When the Second World War ended, Albert Shippen was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion DLI in Greece and was promoted to Corporal and then, aged just 20, to Sergeant Bugler. After time spent in England and Germany, Albert Shippen fell ill with tuberculosis and was medically discharged from the Army.

After his recovery, Albert Shippen worked as a civilian storeman with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI and in 1955 joined the battalion, rising to the rank of Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant before his retirement in 1977.

*Albert Shippen was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1994 at his home in Brandon, County Durham.*