

Jackson Brown

Jackson Brown was born in February 1916 in Langley Park, where his father worked as a miner. His father later worked for a gas company and the family moved to Durham City. When he was 14 years old, Jackson left school and first found work on a farm. He later worked in a drift mine. He also joined the Boys Brigade Bugle Band.

In 1934, Jackson Brown joined the 8th Battalion DLI - his local Territorial Army battalion - at Gilesgate and became a member of the bugle band. After the start of the Second World War, 4450982 Corporal Brown moved with 8 DLI to the Cotswolds for war training before sailing for France in January 1940.

In wartime, 8 DLI's buglers formed an Anti-Aircraft Platoon equipped with Bren Guns. In May 1940, Jackson Brown saw action at Arras and on the long retreat to the Channel coast.

Back in England after Dunkirk, 8 DLI was first sent to the south coast on defence duties but, after the threat of a German invasion faded, the battalion sailed for the Middle East in May 1941, as part of the 50th Division.

Over the next two years, Jackson Brown served in Egypt, Cyprus, Iraq and the North African Desert, seeing action at Gazala, Mersa Matruh, El Alamein and Mareth in March 1943, where he fought as a Platoon Sergeant.

8 DLI landed in Sicily in July 1943 and fought at Primosole Bridge. Sergeant Brown was captured and taken to a prisoner of war camp at Capua on the Italian mainland. When Italy surrendered, he was transferred to a camp in Germany. Finally he was freed by advancing Russian forces and, eventually, was flown home to England.

After Jackson Brown was demobilised from the Army in December 1945, he worked as a miner and for a local engineering firm. Jackson Brown died in July 2008.

Jackson Brown was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1994 at his home in Durham City.