

## **George Edward Iceton**

George Iceton was born in May 1920 at Whorlton, near Barnard Castle in County Durham. His father had served in the Royal Engineers in the First World War and had been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. After George left school, he began work as an apprentice fitter in Darlington. He was 15 years old.

In August 1939, George Iceton joined 'B' Company 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI at Barnard Castle and was posted to the Motor Transport Section. In January 1940, 6 DLI, after training for war in the Cotswolds, was ordered to France as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Division. During the counter attack at Arras on 21 May 1940, 4457030 Private Iceton was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery under fire. He was then 6 DLI's Second in Command's driver.

On its return from Dunkirk, 6 DLI was first sent to the south coast of England of defence duties but, after the threat of German invasion faded, the battalion sailed for the Middle East in May 1941. Over the next two years, George Iceton served in Egypt, Cyprus, Iraq and North Africa, seeing action at Gazala, El Alamein and Mareth. In July 1943, after 6 DLI had taken part in the invasion of Sicily, George Iceton was wounded as the battalion advanced towards Primosole Bridge.

After time in hospital in North Africa, George Iceton was sent back to England for further treatment. In May 1944, he was medically downgraded and transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He did not serve overseas again.

George Iceton was demobilised in July 1946 but he later rejoined the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI and was Sergeant of the Machine Gun Platoon. He finally retired from the Territorial Army in 1964.

*George Iceton was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1989-90 at his home in Hartlepool.*