

## **Arthur Ernest Vizard**

Arthur Vizard was born in September 1918 in London. His father was killed in 1918 in France and Arthur went to the Royal British Orphans School in Watford. After he left school, Arthur found work as an office boy.

In 1936, Arthur Vizard joined the Territorial Army and trained as a machine gunner. When the Second World War began, Company Sergeant Major Arthur Vizard went to France. After Dunkirk he was sent to a Machine Gun Officers Training Unit at Aldershot and was then commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment in February 1941.

In April 1942, Captain Vizard was attached to the 70<sup>th</sup> (Young Soldiers) Battalion DLI then at Westwick Camp at Barnard Castle and was given command of 'A' Company.

In December 1942, Arthur Vizard sailed with a draft of soldiers for North Africa and was then attached to the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI. He fought in the Tunisian campaign at the battle at Sedjenane and landed at Salerno on the Italian mainland in September 1943. During the fighting in Italy, Major Vizard was wounded in the back by a mortar bomb and was evacuated to hospital in North Africa.

After recovering from his wounds, Arthur Vizard rejoined his battalion in Palestine and returned with it to Italy in July 1944. After fighting for the Gothic Line, 16 DLI was sent from Italy to Greece in December 1944, where the battalion saw action against communist fighters. Back in Italy in early 1945, 16 DLI moved north to Austria, when the war ended, to join the Army of Occupation.

'Viz' Vizard was demobilised from the Army in February 1946 and went to work in the oil industry. He died in April 2004.

*Arthur Vizard was interviewed from the Imperial War Museum in 1996.*