

Ian Frederick Neal

Ian Neal was born in February 1919. In October 1939, he was conscripted into the Army and went to the DLI's Depot at Brancepeth Castle for his basic training. After his training, 4457727 Private Neal worked in the Depot's stores until he was posted to the newly-formed 16th Battalion DLI.

On Christmas Day 1942, 16 DLI sailed from Liverpool to Algiers to join the 1st Army fighting in Tunisia. In March 1943, this inexperienced battalion went into action for the first time at Sedjenane, west of Tunis and suffered many casualties.

In September 1943, 16 DLI took part in the invasion of mainland Italy at Salerno. Over the next two years Ian Neal served in the Italian campaign and was also in action in Greece against the Communist fighters. When the Second World War ended, 16 DLI moved north to Austria as part of the Army of Occupation before returning home in early 1946.

In February 1946 Ian Neal was demobilised from the Army.

Ian Neal was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1994.