

James Henry Miller

James Miller was born in October 1910 in Sunderland. After he left school, James had a number of jobs before he decided to emigrate to Canada. There he worked on a farm until he was made unemployed and returned home. In January 1931, James Miller joined The Durham Light Infantry and reported for his basic training to the DLI's Depot at Fenham Barracks in Newcastle upon Tyne.

After serving in England with the 1st Battalion DLI, he was sent overseas in 1932 with a draft to join the 2nd Battalion DLI. 4448559 Private Miller served in India and the Sudan before returning home with the battalion in 1938.

When the Second World War began, 2 DLI was sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. In May 1940 2 DLI fought on the River Dyle at La Tombe to halt the German advance. There James Miller was wounded and during the retreat he was taken prisoner.

James Miller spent the next five years in prisoner of war camps in Germany and Poland. In 1945, as the Russian forces advanced, the prisoners were marched westwards, until James Miller's group was abandoned by its guards. Freed by Russian soldiers, James Miller was eventually flown home to England and, after a short time in hospital, he was demobilised from the Army.

James Miller was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1996.