

Peter John Jeffreys

Peter Jeffreys was born in November 1909 in London. His father had served as a Regular officer in the DLI in the Boer War and First World War. After Peter left school, where he had joined the Officer Training Corps, he went to Sandhurst and was commissioned in his father's Regiment in September 1929.

Between 1929 and 1939, Peter Jeffreys served in India and the Sudan with the 1st and 2nd Battalions DLI and in 1937 he was posted as Captain and Adjutant to the 6th (Territorial) Battalion DLI in Bishop Auckland.

In January 1940, Major Jeffreys move with his battalion to France, where he was made Second in Command. After the failed counter attack at Arras in May, he took command of 6 DLI and brought the remnants of the battalion via Dunkirk back to England. There he reverted to Second in Command and was posted to the newly-forming 70th (Young Soldiers) Battalion DLI at School Aycliffe in County Durham.

After six months with 70 DLI, he was posted to India and the 81st West African Division and later commanded the 5th West African Brigade fighting in Burma against the Japanese. Peter Jeffreys was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in March 1945.

When the Second World War ended, Brigadier Jeffreys served in West Africa and at the War Office. In 1952, Peter Jeffreys volunteered for demotion to Lieutenant Colonel so that he could take command of the 1st Battalion DLI then preparing to serve in Korea. After Korea, Peter Jeffreys was awarded the Bar to his Distinguished Service Order.

Peter Jeffreys retired from the Army in 1953 to farm near Hexham in Northumberland. He died in April 2003.

Peter Jeffreys was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1998 at his home near Hexham.