

Kenneth Clifford Lovell

Kenneth Lovell, whose father had served in the DLI during the First World War, was born in March 1925 in London. In 1937, he joined a Cadet Battalion of the Essex Regiment and continued to serve until he joined the 70th (Young Soldiers) Battalion Middlesex Regiment in 1941. A year later he was transferred to the 70th (Young Soldiers) Battalion DLI at School Aycliffe in County Durham.

Whilst with 70 DLI, 6215731 Private Lovell was charged with being late on parade and immediately deserted. After being arrested in London, he was sentenced to prison in Chorley Detention Barracks. On his release Kenneth Lovell was posted to 14 DLI at Hornsea and then in May 1943 he was sent with a draft to join the 16th Battalion DLI in the Middle East.

In September 1943, 16 DLI took part in invasion of the Italian mainland at Salerno and in November Kenneth Lovell was wounded by machine gun fire from a German aircraft and sent to hospital in Naples. After recovering from his wounds, Kenneth Lovell rejoined his battalion and was promoted to Corporal and then to Sergeant. He was wounded a second time in January 1944.

In November 1944, whilst 16 DLI was fighting across the River Cosina, Sergeant Lovell was taken prisoner and sent north to a prisoner of war camp. Freed by advancing US forces in May 1945, Kenneth Lovell was flown home.

Ken Lovell was demobilised from the Army in 1946 and qualified as a school teacher. He died in December 2007.

Kenneth Lovell was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1988.