

John Dobbs

John Dobbs was born in November 1916 at Beaufort in South Wales. Both his parents died when he was only 11 years old and he was raised by his older sister and brother. After leaving school, he found work in a local brickworks and later worked on building sites in Southend in Essex. When the Second World War began, John Dobbs was conscripted into the Army and was posted to the South Wales Borderers' Depot at Brecon.

After he had completed his basic training, 3911393 Private John Dobbs spent the next four years on home defence duties in Britain. This included serving in Liverpool during the Blitz.

In late June 1944, Sergeant Dobbs was sent as part of a draft to the 10th Battalion DLI in Normandy and saw action for the first time in the fighting in the Bocage country west of Caen. After 10 DLI was disbanded in August 1944, John Dobbs was transferred to the 9th Battalion DLI and continued to serve with this unit during the advance across France and Belgium and into Germany. After the surrender of Nazi Germany in May 1945, John Dobbs served in the Army of Occupation and took part in the Victory Parade in Berlin later that year.

John Dobbs was demobilised from the Army in March 1946 and returned to civilian life.

John Dobbs was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 2004.