

## **Albert Dixon Scratcherd**

Albert Scratcherd was born in June 1916 in Durham City. Following the death of his father, Albert spent time in a children's home. When he was 14 years old, he left school and began work in Kimblesworth Colliery. When he was 19 years old, he left and became a Regular soldier at the DLI's Depot at Fenham Barracks in Newcastle upon Tyne.

After his basic training, 4451904 Private Scratcherd was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion DLI at Blackdown. In 1937, 1 DLI was ordered overseas and sailed for China.

When the Second World War began, 1 DLI moved from Tientsin to Hong Kong and then to the Middle East in January 1940. Albert Scratcherd then served with 1 DLI in Libya, Syria, Tobruk, Malta and on the island of Kos in the eastern Mediterranean.

In October 1943, German forces invaded Kos and by the end of the fighting most of the battalion had been taken prisoner and sent to camps in Poland and eastern Germany. Albert Scratcherd was finally freed by advancing US forces in early 1945 and returned to England, where he was demobilised.

*Albert Scratcherd was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1995 at his home in Brandon, near Durham City.*