George Stephenson Richardson

George Richardson was born in September 1919 at New Herrington in County Durham. After he left school, George, aged 14 years, started work at the local colliery but also continued his education at Sunderland Technical College.

In January 1940, George Richardson was conscripted into the Army and was sent to the DLI's Depot at Brancepeth Castle for his basic training. He then qualified as a signaller. In June 1940, 4458727 Private Richardson was posted to the 6th Battalion DLI at Cannock Chase. The battalion had only just returned from Dunkirk and was being reformed and re-equipped.

In May 1941, after the threat of German invasion had faded, 6 DLI, as part of the 50th Division, sailed from Glasgow for the Middle East. Over the next two years, George Richardson served with 6 DLI in Egypt, Cyprus, Iraq and then in the North African desert, seeing action at Gazala, Mersa Matruh, El Alamein and Mareth.

After the defeat of the German and Italian forces in North Africa, 6 DLI took part in the invasion of Sicily and fought at Primosole Bridge, before it was ordered home, along with the rest of the 50th Division, to prepare for D-Day.

On June 6 1944, George Richardson landed on Gold Beach and then fought from Normandy across France and into Belgium and Holland. When 6 DLI was sent back to England in November 1944, George Richardson was posted to the 21st Army's Headquarters Defence Company.

After the end of the Second World War, George Richardson was demobilised from the Army and began work as a colliery surveyor.

George Richardson was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1992.