

## **Charles Simon Turnbull**

Charles Turnbull was born in January 1917 in Hetton le Hole, County Durham, where his father was a miner. When Charles was 14 year old, he left school and began work in the local colliery but soon found another job with the Co-operative Society.

Charles Turnbull was conscripted into the Army in January 1940 and posted to the recently-formed 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI at South Shields. In April 1940, 10 DLI was sent to France as part of the 70<sup>th</sup> Brigade, with 4459490 Private Turnbull as a Company Clerk at Battalion Headquarters.

In May 1940, 10 DLI was involved in fighting near Arras and suffered many casualties. Back in England after Dunkirk, 10 DLI was rebuilt and then sent to the south coast before being ordered to Iceland as part of the 49<sup>th</sup> Division in October 1940 to help defend the island from German invasion.

On returning home in December 1941, 10 DLI trained in Wales and Scotland before beginning intensive training for D-Day and the invasion of France. The battalion landed in Normandy a few days after D-Day and Company Sergeant Major Turnbull then saw action at Tilley sur Seulles and Rauray.

After 70 Brigade was broken up, Charles Turnbull was posted to 'D' Company 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI and led his company across the Albert Canal and in the fighting at Gheel and on to Nijmegen. At the end of November 1944, when the 50<sup>th</sup> Division was broken up, Company Sergeant Major Turnbull was transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI and the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division. He then fought with 9 DLI until the final surrender of the German forces in May 1945.

At the end of the Second World War, Charles Turnbull returned home and was demobilised from the Army. He died in 2007.

*Charles Turnbull was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1994 at his home in Carrville, Durham City.*