

James Arthur Mann

James Mann was born in January 1923 at Shildon in County Durham, where his father worked as a railway policeman. Later his family moved to Darlington and, when James was 14 years old, he left school and found work in a local shop.

In 1942, James Mann volunteered for the Army and joined the 70th (Young Soldiers) Battalion DLI at School Aycliffe, near Heighington, in County Durham. Later 70 DLI moved to Barnard Castle, where it became the demonstration Battalion at the Battle School at Westwick.

In early 1943, 4468480 Private James Mann was sent as part of draft to North Africa. In September 1943, after the Allied invasion of the Italian mainland at Salerno, James Mann was transferred to a battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, serving as a driver in the anti-tank platoon. He later served in the Italian campaign with the Queen's Royal Regiment.

James Mann was demobilised from the Army in 1946.

James Mann was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum at his home in Darlington in 1998.