

## **Ronald Sherlaw**

Ronald Sherlaw was born in May 1917 at Morpeth in Northumberland, where his father owned a brick making business. After he left the local grammar school in 1933, Ronald began work as a wages clerk.

In February 1940, Ronald Sherlaw was conscripted into the Army and joined the Royal Army Pay Corps. After basic training in Kent, he was posted to London during the Blitz, before being transferred to the DLI's Depot at Brancepeth in January 1941 and then in August to the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI in Folkestone.

Ronald Sherlaw was then offered a place at an Officer Cadet Training Unit in Morecombe and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in December 1942. In spring 1943, Ronald Sherlaw was sent with a draft of soldiers to North Africa and then on to join the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI then in training for the invasion of Italy.

16 DLI landed at Salerno on the Italian mainland in September 1943 and in October Lieutenant Sherlaw was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery whilst leading a fighting patrol. Ronald Sherlaw fought with 16 DLI throughout the Italian campaign and also in Greece and was wounded in December 1943. When the Second World War ended, Major Sherlaw moved with 16 DLI north to Austria as part of the Army of Occupation.

Ronnie Sherlaw was demobilised from the Army in June 1946 and returned to his civilian work as an accountant. He died in 2004.

*Ronald Sherlaw was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1992.*