

## **Albert Davies**

Albert Davies was born in July 1918 at Trench in Shropshire, where his father worked as a building labourer. After he left school, Albert, aged 14 years, first worked as an errand boy in a shop. By 1939, he was working as a labourer at the local Ordnance Depot.

September 1939, Albert Davies was conscripted into the Army and joined The King's Own Shropshire Light Infantry at Shrewsbury. In November 1939, after his basic training, he was transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI then training for war in the Cotswolds.

6 DLI, including Private Davies, sailed for France in January 1940 and fought against the advancing German forces in May before escaping to England from Dunkirk. Back in England, 6 DLI was first sent to the Dorset coast on defence duties but, after the threat of a German invasion faded, the battalion sailed for the Middle East in May 1941.

Over the next two years, Sergeant Davies served with the Anti-Tank Platoon in Egypt, Cyprus, Iraq and the North African Desert, seeing action at Gazala, Mersa Matruh, El Alamein and Mareth. He also took part in the landings in Sicily in July 1943 and fought at Primosole Bridge, before 6 DLI returned to England, along with the rest of the 50<sup>th</sup> Division, to prepare for D-Day. At this time, Albert Davies was transferred to the Mortar Platoon.

In June 1944, Sergeant Davies landed on Gold Beach and fought from Normandy across France and into Belgium and Holland. When 6 DLI was sent back to England in November 1944, Albert Davies remained behind helping train the Dutch and Belgian Armies,

In April 1946 Albert Davies was demobilised from the Army and returned to work at the Ordnance Depot at Trench. He died in August 1996.

*Albert Davies was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1990 at his home in Shropshire.*