

George Kenneth Lodge

George Lodge was born in September 1925 at Pelton, County Durham. After he left school, George found work in a local brickyard. When the Second World War began, he was only 14 years old but he volunteered to join the DLI Cadets.

In November 1943, George Lodge was conscripted into the Army and was sent to the DLI's Depot at Brancepeth Castle for his basic training. After training, 14675186 Private Lodge was posted to the 6th Battalion DLI at Lowestoft. 6 DLI had only recently returned from Sicily to prepare for D-Day and the invasion of France.

6 DLI landed in Normandy on 6 June 1944 and George Lodge fought throughout the campaign. After the British Army advance across France into Belgium, 6 DLI took part in the attack across the Albert Canal at Gheel in September 1944. This was the last major battle fought by the battalion and George Lodge was taken prisoner in the confused fighting. Transferred to a prisoner of war camp, conditions for the prisoners were harsh with little food or heating. George Lodge was finally freed by advancing US troops in May 1945 and flown home.

After leave and time with a Holding Battalion in England, George Lodge was transferred as a driver to the Royal Army Service Corps and served in Greece and Palestine.

George Lodge was finally demobilised from the Army in 1947 and returned home.

George Lodge was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum.