

## **John Alfred Everett**

John Everett was born in January 1921 at Holyhead on Anglesey, where his father had settled after leaving the Royal Navy. After John left school, he worked in a local quarry and also joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers - a Territorial unit.

In 1940, 4194513 Private Everett was posted to the newly-formed 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI at Edinburgh. The battalion was then moved to Folkestone on coastal defence duties. After time spent at the Infantry Training Centre at Brancepeth Castle, John Everett was drafted in late 1941 to Bombay in India. On arrival the draft was immediately sent to the Middle East.

In Egypt, Private Everett was posted to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI and took part in the Battle of Alamein in November 1942. Immediately after the battle, he and another soldier hitched a lift to Alexandria for an evening's entertainment. A court martial followed and he was sentenced to 56 days in a military prison. John Everett finally caught up with 9 DLI near Benghazi.

At the battle at Mareth in March 1943, John Everett was taken prisoner and sent to an Italian prisoner of war camp. When Italy surrendered, he broke out of the camp and hid with Italian farmers until the advancing British forces found him.

After his return to England, Private Everett was sent to a Holding Battalion in Hartlepool on the Durham coast. He was finally demobilised from the Army in 1946 and settled in Hartlepool.

*John Everett was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1996 at his home in Hartlepool.*