

## **John James March**

John March was born in December 1911 at Wylam on Tyne, where his father was an auctioneer. Later the family moved to Newcastle, where John went to St Joseph's Grammar School. In 1929, after finishing his schooling at a Jesuit College in Chesterfield, John March went to work for a bank.

John March was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion DLI in June 1936. When the Second World War began, 9 DLI was sent to the Cotswolds to train for war, before being sent to France in January 1940, as part of the British Expeditionary Force. Captain March was then serving as the battalion's Adjutant.

In May 1940, the Germans invaded Belgium and France and 9 DLI was heavily involved in the fighting. During the chaos of the retreat to Dunkirk, John March was wounded in the head during an air raid and was taken prisoner by the advancing German forces.

After time in hospital in Bruges, John March was transferred to a prisoner of war camp in Germany. He remained a prisoner until his release in early 1945.

After the war, John March returned to banking, eventually becoming a bank manager. He died in 1998.

*John March was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum at his home in Gosforth in 1988.*