

Leslie Brown

Leslie Brown was born at Jarrow on Tyneside in November 1923. His father was an engineer who worked both at sea and in the shipyards. When the Second World War began, Leslie was evacuated to the safety of Upper Weardale before he returned to Tyneside found work at Felling Library and joined the ARP. Leslie Brown hoped to join the Royal Air Force but in September 1942 he received his call up papers and was ordered to report to the royal Sussex Regimental Depot at Chichester.

After he completed his basic training, Private Brown was transferred to the DLI at Brancepeth Castle and he was posted to the 14th Battalion DLI on coastal defence duties at Hornsea. In late 1943, he was sent as part of a draft by sea to North Africa and was then posted to the 16th Battalion DLI in Italy. Leslie Brown served with this battalion throughout the campaign in Italy and also served in Greece in late 1944 and in Austria as part of the Army of Occupation.

After the end of the Second World War, Leslie Brown was posted to the 1st Battalion DLI at Xanthi in Greece and was not demobilised until January 1947. He then returned to his work at Felling.

Leslie Brown was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 2002.