

Oswald Mottram

Oswald Mottram was born in August 1929 in Firbeck in Nottinghamshire, where his father was a farm worker. After he left school, Oswald worked as an apprentice joiner in Leeds until, after the Second World War began, when he helped construct new aerodromes in Yorkshire. He was finally called up in 1942 and ordered to report to the DLI's Depot at Brancepeth, near Durham City.

After completing his basic training, 14354689 Private Oswald Mottram was first posted to the home-based 14th Battalion DLI and served on coastal defence duties. He was then sent as part of a draft by sea from Liverpool to join the 9th Battalion DLI in North Africa. Oswald Mottram took part in the invasion of Sicily in July 1943 but during the campaign he fell ill with malaria. He was still recovering in hospital when 9 DLI left Sicily and sailed for home to prepare for D-Day.

After leaving hospital, Private Mottram was posted to the 16th Battalion DLI in North Africa and took part in the landings at Salerno on the Italian mainland in September 1943. During the fighting there he was seriously wounded and was evacuated by hospital ship to England.

After his recovery, Oswald Mottram was discharged from the Army in 1944 and returned to civilian life.

Oswald Mottram was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum.