

Thomas Myers

Thomas Myers was born in December 1920 in Spennymoor, County Durham, where his father worked as a coal miner. After he left school, Thomas began work in a local colliery. He was 14 years old.

In May 1939, Thomas Myers joined his local Territorial Army unit – 'C' Company 6th Battalion DLI - at Spennymoor Drill Hall. When the Second World War began, 4455621 Private Myers was transferred to the newly-formed 10th Battalion DLI.

In April 1940, 10 DLI was sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. The battalion was poorly equipped and not fully trained and was first set to work building air strips. When the German forces invaded in May 1940, 10 DLI was thrown into the fighting around Arras. After suffering heavy casualties the battalion joined the retreat to Dunkirk.

Back in England, 10 DLI was first sent to the south west of England as part of the coastal defence before sailing for Iceland in September 1940. After returning home in 1942, 10 DLI began to train for the invasion of France.

On 12 June 1944, 10 DLI landed in Normandy and was soon in action at St Pierre and Rauray. In this fighting Sergeant Myers was wounded and sent to hospital in England. When he returned to France in September 1944, Thomas Myers joined the 6th Battalion DLI.

6 DLI then advanced across France and into Belgium and Holland. When the 50th Division was broken up in November 1944, and 6 DLI returned to England, Sergeant Myers was posted to the 9 DLI, which had joined the 7th Armoured Division. In January 1945, in fighting at St Joost, Thomas Myers was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his bravery in action with 9 DLI. In 1945, 9 DLI moved into Germany and, after the end of the war, joined the Army of Occupation in Berlin.

Thomas Myers was demobilised from the Army in 1946 and returned to work as a coal miner.

Thomas Myers was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1988.