

Robert Ellison

Robert Ellison was born in October 1923 in Birtley, where his father worked at Harrington Colliery, until he was killed in a pit accident in 1928. Robert's mother later remarried and the family moved to Chester le Street.

After he left school in 1937, Robert Ellison worked first as a grocery boy and then on the railways, until he was conscripted into the Army in September 1942. After completing his basic training with the Cheshire Regiment in Chester, he was sent to the Infantry Training Centre at Brancepeth Castle, County Durham to be trained as a driver.

After briefly serving with 14 DLI at Hornsea, Robert Ellison was posted overseas in May 1943 to the 16th Battalion DLI in North Africa. In September 1943, 16 DLI landed on the Italian mainland at Salerno and Corporal Ellison served with 'D' Company 16 DLI until he was wounded in a shell blast in October 1943 on the River Volturno and was evacuated to an American hospital in Tunisia. There, suffering from battle fatigue, he was medically downgraded and was given work as an Army driver in North Africa. After the war ended, he was posted to a Field Security Unit in Yugoslavia and Austria.

Robert Ellison returned to England in March 1946 was demobilised from the Army.

Robert Ellison was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1999 at his home in Chester le Street.