

Alexander Allan

Alexander Allan was born in June 1910 in Scotland. In 1943 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and joined the 113th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Royal Artillery. This unit had been formed out of the old 5th (Territorial Army) Battalion DLI at Stockton on Tees.

On 7 June 1944, the day after D-Day, this regiment landed on Sword beach in Normandy and set up its anti-aircraft guns to cover the beachhead. Alexander Allan served with the 113 LAA Regiment in France and later in Belgium, Holland and on into Germany.

In April 1945, the Regiment was sent as part of the relief force to Belsen concentration camp, where typhus was raging. There Alexander Allen and his men helped bury the dead and then move the survivors out of the camp to a neighbouring German Army barracks, where the survivors were fed and nursed. The huts at Belsen were then burnt. Alexander Allan spent nearly two months working at Belsen concentration camp.

Alexander Alan was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1991.