

Ronald Elliott

Ronald Elliott was born in February 1923 in South Shields, where his father worked as a coal miner. After Ronald left South Shields High School, he began work as an apprentice electrician at the naval shipbuilding yards at Elswick but later moved to the Town Hall to work as an accountancy clerk.

In 1940, Ronald Elliott, aged 17 years, joined the newly-formed Home Guard, then in September 1942 he was conscripted into the Army and joined the Royal Engineers at Fulwood Barracks in Preston.

Private Elliott first served as a Signaller in the Leicestershire Regiment but in June 1943 he was sent to North Africa and then on to Sicily to join the 9th Battalion DLI, then recovering from heavy losses at Primosole Bridge.

Ronald Elliott had only served for a few weeks in Sicily as a Signaller with 'B' Company 9 DLI when he was wounded by a mortar bomb and evacuated to North Africa. In September 1943, Ronald Elliott was sent as part of a draft to the Army that had recently landed at Salerno on the Italian mainland. There Private Elliott was posted to the 16th Battalion DLI, though many of the drafted soldiers mutinied and refused to join their new units.

Ronald Elliott served with 16 DLI throughout the Italian campaign. In December 1944, the battalion was sent to Greece and became involved in the Greek civil war before returning to Italy in April 1945. When the war ended, 16 DLI moved north to Austria as part of the Army of Occupation.

In February 1946, after 16 DLI was disbanded, Ronald Elliott was posted to the 1st Battalion DLI in Greece, before he returned to England in November 1946.

Ronald Elliott was demobilised from the Army in June 1947 and, after gaining a Degree in Economics, worked for a chocolate maker in York.

Ronald Elliott was interviewed for the Imperial War Museum in 1993 at his home in Houghton le Spring.