

The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment



The Great War 1914 - 1919



The 1/5th Battalion

The Battalion was mobilised in August 1914. It was initially involved in Home Defence duties in the North West of England. From September to November 1914 the troops were used to guard the Great Western Railway line between Didcot and Oxford. In February 1915 the battalion sailed for France and landed at Le Havre. They were one of the first Territorial units to be sent overseas. Originally attached to the 5th Division, the battalion ended up in the 55th 'West Lancashire'

Division.

The men were to spend the rest of the war in France and Flanders. The men only returned home in September 1919.

A total of 34 officers and 586 other ranks died during these operations.

In addition to regular spells in the trenches, the 1/5th Battalion was involved in the following actions:

The 2nd Battle of Ypres (22nd April-25th May 1915)

The battalion suffered heavy losses at Gravenstafel and Frezenberg after fierce German attacks.

During the Battle of the Somme (1st November 1916)

- **Guillemont** 8th August - The men had to fall back because of unbroken barbed wire in front of them.
- **Flers** 27th September – The 1/5th battalion made a successful attack with fixed bayonets.

During the Third Battle of Ypres (31st July-10th November 1917)

- **Pilckem Ridge** 31st July - German guns failed to stop the battalion's advance.
- **Menin Road** 20th September-The battalion was used to stop German attacks.

The Battle of Cambrai (20th November-3rd December 1917)

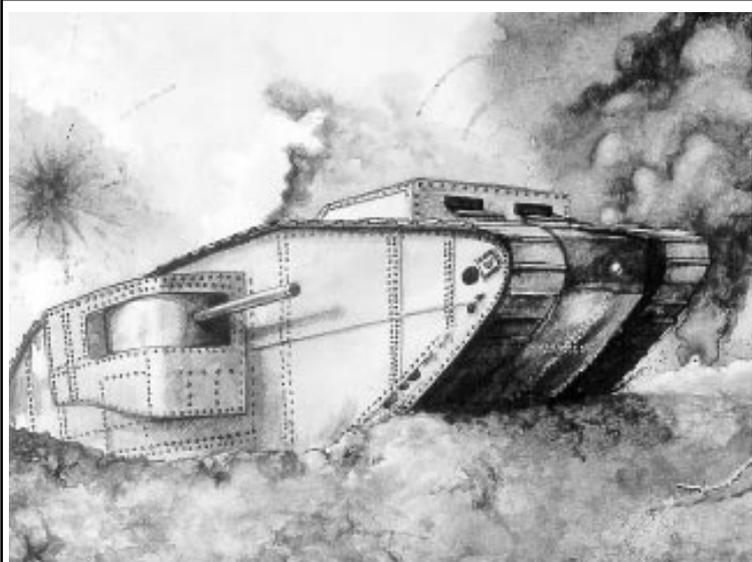
During the German counter-attack the 1/5th battalion had to withdraw. The German attacks were led by 'Storm troops'.

Givenchy Craters (24th August 1918)

There was little opposition when the men moved forward at 7.20a.m. The Germans responded by shelling the men with gas but they were unable to prevent the attack being a success.



Private Carr, Private Thompson and Sergeant Clowes of the 1/5th Battalion (TF) cleaning up the trenches at Loos, winter 1915.



A British Tank of the type used in attacks on the German front line at Flers in September 1915. Advancing behind a creeping barrage and with the protection of the tanks helped British infantry successfully penetrate German defences.