

The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment



The Great War 1914 - 1919



The 11th Battalion

This battalion was raised in July 1915. It was the last battalion of the regiment to be raised for active service during the war. Normally, soldiers had to be at least 5 feet 3 inches tall. However, poor food in working class areas meant that many men were too short to enlist. The 11th Battalion was one of several 'Bantam Battalions' formed from men who were between 5 feet & 5 feet 2 inches tall. With its bayonet fixed, a 'Bantam's' rifle was as tall as he was and he would have had to stand on sandbags just to see out of his trench. After training, the battalion joined the 120th Infantry Brigade of the 40th Division. The men arrived in

France in July 1916. They served on the Western Front in France and Belgium until February 1918.

By early 1918 the British Army was running short of men. As a result, one battalion in each infantry brigade was disbanded. The 11th Battalion was disbanded on 7th February and the men were sent to the 6th Entrenching Battalion.

A total of 16 officers and 125 other ranks of the 11th King's Own were killed on the Western Front.

In addition to regular spells in the trenches, the 11th Battalion was involved in the following actions:

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

The 11th King's Own was sent to the Beaucamp sector. The men regularly patrolled 'no man's land'. They also carried out several raids on the German trenches.

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

The battalion was involved in repeated attempts to capture Bourslon village and Bourslon Wood on the 24th & 25th November. They fought in cold and windy weather. The attack on the village was successful but the 25th November saw continuous hard fighting in the wood.

G.  R.

URGENT.

**11th BATTALION THE KING'S OWN
ROYAL LANCASTER REGIMENT.**

TO ALL LOYAL MEN OF LANCASTERSHIRE.

NOTE.—A New Battalion of your County Regiment is being formed.
Standard: Height, 5ft. to 5ft. 6in. Chest, 33in. expanded.
Ages, 19 to 45; ex-Soldiers, 45.

You and your Friends will be kept together, and
TRAINED AT LANCASTER
as far as possible.

APPLY TO THE RECRUITING OFFICE:—
LANCASTER: Devonshire Barracks.

ELLSWORTH: Town Hall.	OLVERTON: 4, Queen-street.
ELSTWOOD: Francis Clackson, Lancaster-road.	GAFFTANO: Town Hall.
BARNOW: 5, The Strand.	MILTON: 20, E. Hill.
MORCARTON: 1, Main Lane.	HALTON: Town Hall.

An advert in the *Lancaster Guardian* in July 1915 for the raising of the 11th (Service) Battalion, the last of the Kitchener units of the Regiment to be formed.



The artist and war poet Isaac Rosenberg, who was killed on 1st April 1918 near Fampoux. He had originally enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment, but later transferred to the 11th (Service) Battalion King's Own, a 'Bantam' Battalion raised in Lancaster in 1915. He served in D Company and went overseas with the Battalion in June 1916. On its disbandment in February 1918, he was transferred to the 1st Battalion. He is buried in Bailleul Road East cemetery, St Laurent Blangy, France.

Photo Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum