

The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment



The Great War 1914 - 1919



The 1/4th Battalion

This was one of three Territorial Battalions of the Regiment that saw active service in the war. At the outbreak of the war the battalion was stationed at Ulverston as a part of the North Lancashire Brigade. The men spent the next two and a half months guarding the railway at Slough. Their next move was to Bedford, where they joined the 154th Brigade in the 51st Division. In May 1915 the 1/4th King's Own sailed into Boulogne Harbour. The men were to spend the rest of the war in France

and Belgium. In January 1916 the battalion was transferred to the 55th 'West Lancashire' Division and it fought with this division for the rest of the war.

A total of 42 officers and 785 other ranks died during these operations.

In addition to regular spells in the trenches, the 1/4th Battalion was involved in the following actions:

The Battle of Festubert (15th June 1915)

A gallant attack was made but no artillery support had been arranged and losses were severe.

During the Battle of the Somme (1st July-16th November 1916)

- **Guillemont** 8th August - The battalion went 'over the top' at 4.20a.m. In the end they had to fall back because of unbroken barbed wire in front of them.
- **Ginchy** 10th September - The men made an attack on 'Hop Alley' but were shelled and machine-gunned out of it.
- **Flers** 27th September - The battalion made a successful attack with fixed bayonets.

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

- **Pilckem Ridge** 31st July - The battalion's attack was very successful. Many German field guns were captured.
- **Menin Road** 20th September - Despite a confused start the battalion got as far as its final objective.

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

During the German counter-attack the 1/4th battalion had to withdraw. The German attacks were led by 'Storm troops'.

The Defence of Givenchy, 1918 (9th-11th April 1918)

The battalion suffered heavy losses as it slowly withdrew before the German attack.

Givenchy Craters (24th August 1918)

At 7.20a.m. the attack started, initially without a barrage. The attack was a success and all the German counter-attacks were broken up.

