

The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment



The Great War 1914 - 1919



The 2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was in India when the Great War started. On the 19th November 1914 they embarked on a troopship and set sail for Britain. They arrived at Plymouth just before Christmas. The battalion travelled to Winchester and joined the 83rd Brigade of the 28th Division. They served in France and Belgium from February to October 1915. The battalion then sailed firstly to Egypt and then to Salonika in Greece. They remained in Macedonia, fighting mainly on the Struma Front, until the end of the war. The British troops had to put up with extremes of temperature in their trenches in the valley of the river Vardar. The men

of the 2nd Battalion took part in the final victorious attack on the Bulgarian Army that led to its surrender.

After the Armistice in 1918 the battalion moved to the Dardanelles and only returned to Britain in July 1919.

A total of 27 officers and 648 other ranks during these operations.

In addition to regular spells in the trenches, the 2nd Battalion was involved in the following actions:

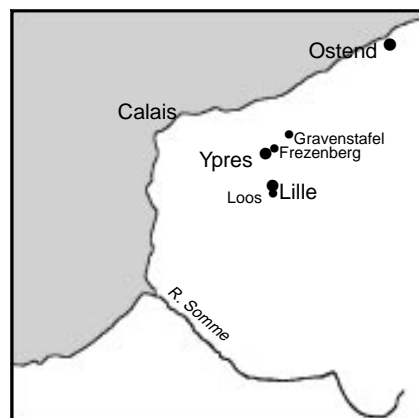
The 2nd Battalion in Belgium 1915

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

1. **Gravenstafel** 24th April: The 2nd King's Own witnessed the results of a German gas attack on the Canadian troops.
2. **Frezenberg** 8th May: The battalion suffered more than 300 men killed in fierce German attacks.

The Battle of Loos (25th September - 8th October 1915)

Short of shells for their guns the British chose to use poison gas for the first time in a battle which was fought among mining villages and slag heaps.



The 2nd Battalion in Macedonia 1916 - 1918



The Affair of Bairkli Jum'a (31st October 1916)

The British made a successful early morning attack on enemy troops in the village of Bairkli Jum'a. Several prisoners were taken.

The Advance into Bulgaria (22nd September 1918 onwards)

Patrols were sent out early in the morning. They found that the Bulgarians had abandoned their trenches. The battalion formed part of the advance guard chasing the retreating Bulgarian Army until the battalion was struck by the 'Spanish flu' influenza epidemic.