

The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment



The Great War 1914 - 1919



The 6th Battalion

At the beginning of the Great War Lord Kitchener made an appeal for 100,000 volunteers. The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment raised four battalions from the men who volunteered in Lancaster. They were sent to Tidworth in the south of England for training. After joining the 38th Brigade of the 13th Division they were sent to Gallipoli where they fought from July to December 1915. The battalion was sent to join the Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia, where

it fought until the Turks were finally defeated. The men then travelled to India for service on the Northwest frontier but it was not required. It was demobilised and returned to England in August 1918.

A total of 61 officers and 1138 other ranks died during these operations.

In addition to regular spells in the trenches, the 6th Battalion was involved in the following actions:

The Attack on Sari Bair Ridge at Gallipoli (August 6th-10th August 1915)

This ridge was a key point in the Turkish defences on the Gallipoli peninsula. The 6th battalion suffered heavy casualties stopping the Turkish counter-attack on the 10th because their trenches were too shallow.

Actions at Hannah & Sanniyat on the Tigris (5th-9th April 1916)

These attacks were part of an attempt to relieve the British & Indian troops besieged in Kut-al-Amara. The attack on Sanniyat was repulsed with heavy losses.

The Capture of Kut-al-Amara (14th December 1916-11th March 1917)

The 6th King's Own took part in the campaign to capture Kut-al-Amara & Baghdad.

They made an attack, under heavy shell fire, to capture the **Dahra bend** north of Kut. On the 24th February the battalion occupied Kut.

During the night of the 8th-9th March the men of the battalion were involved in the crossing of the Diyala River south of Baghdad. Baghdad was occupied on the 11th March but the troops continued to suffer casualties in operations around Baghdad until the end of April.

The Occupation of Kirkuk (April-May 1918)

The British and Indian troops continued to push back the Turks. The 6th King's Own now had the benefit of operating alongside armoured cars. The British occupied Kirkuk on the 8th May.



Private F. Sedgebeer from Halton near Lancaster with Lewis gun and comrade of the 6th (Service) Battalion in Mesopotamia in 1917. This is one of the few photographs taken of the Battalion on active service.