

# The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment



The Great War 1914 - 1919



## The 7th Battalion

The 7th Battalion was raised in 1914 from volunteers who had responded to Lord Kitchener's appeal for 100,000 men. After training, the battalion was sent to join the 56th Infantry Brigade of the 19th Division at Tidworth Pennings. The 7th Battalion spent Christmas 1914 in billets at Andover. The battalion arrived in France in July 1915. The battalion 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 7th Battalion was disbanded on 22nd February and the men were sent to the 1/4th and 1/5th Battalions of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

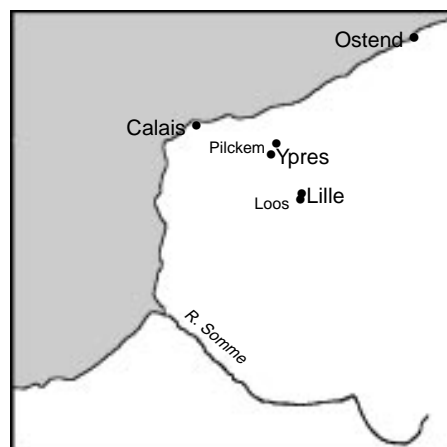
A total of 23 officers and 466 other ranks of the 7th Battalion were killed in action on the Western Front.

In addition to regular spells in the trenches, the 7th Battalion was involved in the following actions:

### The 7th Battalion on the Western Front

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

1. **La Boisselle** 6th July: The battalion made a successful attack with fixed bayonets on a German trench. Three counter attacks were defeated.
2. **Bazentin** 30th July: The battalion made a successful attack on a German trench and strongpoint near High Wood under cover of a smoke-screen.
3. **Grandcourt** 13th November: A successful attack was made under cover of mist and a German trench was captured.



#### The Battle of Messines 7th June 1917

The battalion joined in the attack on the German positions after the explosion of 19 huge mines had devastated them.

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

**Pilckem Ridge** 31st July: The battalion went 'over the top' behind a tremendous barrage at 3.50 a.m. The battalion repelled two German counter-attacks.

A platoon of the 7th (Service) Battalion at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, in Hampshire. This photo was probably taken in June 1915 before the Battalion went to the Western Front. They were based at Tidworth from 27th March to 16th June 1915.

Standing in the back row, 4th from the right is Private James Miller VC. He was awarded the medal posthumously. He carried a vital message and returned with the reply under heavy fire, although he was mortally wounded. This was on the Somme on 30th July 1916.

