

# The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment



The Great War 1914 - 1919



## The 9th Battalion

The 9th Battalion was raised in Lancaster in October 1914. The men, who were all volunteers, travelled by train to Eastbourne for their basic training. In November they joined the 65th Brigade of the 22nd Division. By Christmas they were back at Eastbourne. They carried on training and by September 1915 they were ready for active service. They served, briefly, in France on the Western Front. In October 1915 they embarked on a troopship and set sail for Greece. The 9th King's Own disembarked at Salonika on 7th November. The battalion's first act was to cover the retreat of the 10th Division from Serbia. They remained in

Greek Macedonia, on the Doiran Front, until the end of the war. The men of the 9th 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 Chanak in the Dardanelles and sailed back to Britain in November 1918.

A total of 18 officers and 170 other ranks died during these operations.

In addition to regular spells in the trenches, the 9th Battalion was involved in the following actions:

### **The retirement of the 10th Division (7th-12th December 1915)**

The battalion moved north from Salonika. It was told to protect the 10th Division as it retreated from Serbia. On 11th December attacking Bulgarian troops overran one company.

### **The attack on Piton Mitrailieuses (10th September 1916)**

The battalion moved to the Struma Front and helped attack positions in the Vardar Valley.

### **Doiran-The May attack (24th April-9th May 1917)**

The 9th King's Own occupied Hill 380 and suffered many casualties from shelling on the 27th April.

### **The Raid on Petit Couronne (20th April 1918)**

The 9th King's Own made a 'brilliant' daylight raid on Bulgarian positions at 'Petit Couronne'.

### **The Battle of Doiran (18th September-22nd September 1918)**

On the 19th September Doljeli village was shelled and the battalion suffered many casualties. At the end of the battle, the 9th King's Own helped to chase the retreating Bulgarian Army. More men were killed by shellfire on the 24th September.



A soldier of the King's Own with captured donkeys and Bulgarian MG equipment