

The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment



The Great War 1914 - 1919



Leonard Williamson



Upon the outbreak of the Great War, Leonard was one of many thousands of men who together with their friends flooded down to the local Drill Hall to enlist.

He found himself in the 8th Battalion. The battalion spent almost a year in Britain being trained for action.

After they arrived in France Leonard would have spent much of his time in the trenches. When he wasn't in the front-line, Leonard would have been kept busy working behind the lines and training.

The first time Leonard Williamson 'went over the top' was at The Bluff on 2nd March 1916. A month later Leonard led his men into the attack 'across a waste of sticky mud' at St. Eloi.

Leonard did not attack on the first day of the Somme. However, on the 18th July he helped to fight off three German counter attacks at Delville Wood. A month later he went over the top at Guillemont but the attack failed.

As the Battle of the Somme continued into autumn the weather got worse. On the 13th November 1916 the battalion was told to attack Serre. The men had to try and attack the German trenches as they waded, waist deep in mud. The attack failed and at some time during the day Leonard was killed. He did not die at once because a field ambulance picked him up and carried him from the battlefield. He was buried in Bertrancourt Military Cemetery. A telegram was sent to inform Leonard's family of his death. Leonard Williamson was one of 1,198 men from the 8th battalion, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment who were killed in the war.

Lest we forget