



## **The Regimental History of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment**

### **Raising and Early Distinctions**

The earliest our predecessors, later known as the 4th, or King's Own, Regiment of Foot, was raised by King Charles II on 13 July 1680 as The Earl of Plymouth's Regiment of Foot for service in Tangiers, a former Portuguese possession which had come to the Merry Monarch in his wife's dowry.

The Regiment's first active service was the suppression of Monmouth's Rebellion at Sedgemoor, 1685. A consequence of this revolt was an expansion of the Royal Army and the formation on 20 June 1685 of Princess Anne of Denmark's Regiment of Foot, later known as the 8th, or King's Regiment. Both regiments were soon involved in opposition to King James II's increasingly autocratic rule and were early adherents of William of Orange. The 4th were the first to join William at Torbay, which later earned for them the name The King's Own and the unique distinction of the Lion of England as their regimental badge. The accession of King William III led to war with Jacobite supporters in Ireland and Scotland and with Louis XIV of France, and among the new regiments raised was the future 30th Foot, formed on 8 March 1689 as Viscount Castleton's Regiment of Foot.



The 4th and 8th (as it will be convenient to call them) saw service in Ireland, 1689-92, at the Battle of the Boyne and the sieges of Carrickfergus, Cork, Kinsale and Limerick, while the 30th was sent to Scotland. In 1692 all three regiments joined King William's army in the Spanish Netherlands, where they fought at Steenkirk and Landen, and 4th and 30th gained particular distinction at the capture of the fortress-city of Namur in 1695, the Regiment's first battle honour.

### **The War of Spanish Succession 1702-13**

Renewed war with France saw the 4th and 30th re-formed as Marines. As such they served both as detachments on board Royal Navy ships and ashore, taking part in numerous battles, sieges and naval actions, mostly in Spain and the Mediterranean, but also in home waters. The most notable of these were the capture of Gibraltar, 1704, and its subsequent defence when 'the English Marines gained immortal honour', naval actions at Vigo and off Malaga, the capture of Cadiz, Barcelona, Alicante, Carthegen, Ivec, Majorca, Sardinia, Minorca, the defence of Lerida and the battle of St Estevan.

In North America the 30th were present at the capture of Annapolis Royal, in Nova Scotia, Britain's first conquest in Canada, but then the 4th had over 200 drowned in a disastrous expedition up the St Lawrence.



The 34th Foot, raised on 12 February 1702 as Lord Lucas' Regiment, also fought in Spain, in particular at the capture and subsequent defence of Barcelona.

The 8th, meanwhile, fought throughout the war in Flanders and Germany under the Duke of Marlborough, notably at his great victories of Blenheim, 1704, Ramillies, 1706, Oudenarde, 1708, and Malplaquet, 1709, and the successful sieges of Venloo, Liege, Menin, Lille, Tournai and Douai. The 34th joined Marlborough's army in 1710 and took part in the capture of Douai and Bouchain.

### **Redcoats and Jacobites 1713-55**

The 4th and 30th were restored to the Army establishment in 1710 and 1715 respectively, and in 1715 King George I conferred upon the 4th the title The King's Own. A similar honour was given to the 8th in 1716, when it became The King's Regiment and was granted the White Horse of Hanover as a badge, with the motto *Nec Aspera Terrent*, in recognition of its loyalty and bravery at the battle of Sheriffmuir, 1715, when it sustained heavy casualties in a rearguard action against the Jacobites.

The 40th Foot was formed on 25 August 1717 in Nova Scotia as Phillips' Regiment. In the first 44 years of its existence the Regiment garrisoned the Canadian frontier and took part in numerous actions against the French and their Indian allies.

Hostilities with Spain took the 34th in 1719 on a successful expedition to Vigo, while in 1727 the 30th, together with the 34th, again defended Gibraltar.

The War of Austrian Succession brought the 8th back to the Low Countries in 1743 to fight at Dettingen and, with the 34th, Fontenoy, 11 May 1745. On the latter occasion the British Infantry broke the French line but, unsupported and outnumbered, were obliged to withdraw. For their gallantry in covering the retreat the 34th were given the right to emblazon a Laurel Wreath on their Colours. This battle is commemorated annually by the Regiment.

On 3 March 1741 Mordaunt's Regiment, later the 47th Foot, was raised in Scotland. Its first active service was in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, when it fought at Prestonpans and subsequently defended Edinburgh Castle against the 'Young Pretender'. The 8th and 34th were hurried back from the Continent to meet this emergency and, with the 4th, were present at the battles of Falkirk and Culloden.

30th were in the Channel Fleet, taking part in Admiral Anson's victory over the French off Cape Finisterre in 1747, while back in the Low Countries the King's were again in action at the battles of Roucoux and Lauffeld.

### **The Seven Years War 1756-63**

In 1755 the threat of renewed war with France resulted in the raising of several new regiments, including 55th and 59th Foot, while the following year the 8th were given a second battalion which, in 1758, became the 63rd Foot.

In Canada the 40th and 47th dealt with the French threat to Nova Scotia, notably by the capture in 1755 of Fort Beausejour, and in 1758 won their first battle honours for the reduction of the fortress of Louisburg, where the 47th gained the nickname 'Wolfe's Own'. In 1758 also the gallant 55th met with a bloody repulse at Ticonderoga, but the following year they were present at the capture of Fort Niagara. On 17 September 1759 the 47th and the Grenadier Company 40th earned great distinction at the decisive battle of Quebec, where their perfect volleys decided the fate of North America. This is commemorated annually by the Regiment, and the officers wear black in their ceremonial gold lace in memory of General Wolfe's death at the moment of victory. The 40th, 47th and 55th Regiments were all present at the capture of Montreal, 1760, which ended French rule in Canada. The 55th was then heavily engaged in quelling the Indian rising known as Pontiac's Conspiracy.

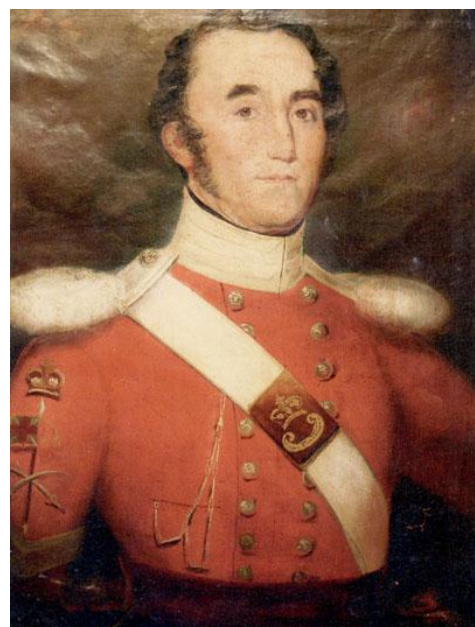
In Europe, the 4th and 34th were among the gallant defenders of Fort St Philip on Minorca, 1756, while the Kings, 30th and 34th raided the French coast, capturing Cherbourg and earning the battle honour Belleisle, 1761. Subsequently the 8th fought in Germany 1760-62, where their engagements included the battles of Corbach, Marburg, Kloster Kampen, Vellinghausen and Wilhelmstahl, and the siege of Cassel.

In the West Indies, the 4th and the newly-formed 63rd took part in the capture of Guadeloupe, 1759, as a trophy of which the latter took the French fleur-de-lys as its badge and Guadeloupe Day is commemorated annually on 10 June. The 4th went on to capture the island of Dominica, 1762 and, with the 40th, Martinique. Finally, the 4th, 34th and 40th were with the force which, again in 1762, captured Havannah, capital of the Spanish Caribbean Empire. In 1765, 48 years after their formation, the 40th arrived for the first time in the British Isles.

### **American War of Independence 1775-83**

The 4th, 8th, 30th, 34th, 40th, 47th, 55th, 59th and 63rd all fought in America. The 4th, 47th and 59th were stationed in the colonies at the outbreak of hostilities and took part in the first skirmishes at Lexington and Concord, and, with the 63rd, in the bloody battle of Bunker's Hill, 1775, where the 47th made the final charge to carry the rebel lines. The 40th and 55th were recalled to North America and in 1776, together with the 4th and 63rd, took part in the battle of Brooklyn, which led to the capture of New York from Washington. In 1777 the 40th and 55th fought at Princeton and later that year, with the 4th and the 63rd flank companies, beat Washington again at the battle of Brandywine and at Germantown, where the 40th saved the day. All four regiments were also present at Monmouth Court House, 1778.

Meanwhile the 34th and 47th had also returned to North America. Having relieved Quebec and expelled the rebels from Canada, they had the misfortune to be involved in Burgoyne's disastrous Saratoga campaign



of 1777. Despite initial successes at Ticonderoga and Hubbardton, the expedition was eventually overwhelmed by superior force and the survivors were interned for the duration of the war (though most subsequently escaped). The 63rd participated in an attempt from New York to link up with Burgoyne, taking part in the storming of Fort Clinton. The 8th, stationed on the Great Lakes since 1768, also fought on this front, capturing forts and, with survivors of the 47th, raiding many hundreds of miles into rebel-held territory until the end of the war.

Britain was now also at war with France and Spain, and in 1778 the 4th, 40th and 55th were sent to capture the West Indian island of St Lucia.

In 1780-83 the 30th and 63rd were engaged in the Carolinas. The 63rd were present at the capture of Charleston and fought with distinction as mounted infantry at Sherar's Ferry. They were also victorious at Hobkirk's Hill and, with the 30th flankers, at Eutaw Springs, one of the hardest fought actions of the war. The 40th returned to America, and in 1782 led in the capture of Fort Griswold. But elsewhere the war was drawing to an unsuccessful close and in 1783 the 40th left New York with the last of the British garrison.

Meanwhile, in 1782-83 the 59th took part in the relief of the 3rd siege of Gibraltar.

### **First County Titles 1782**

On 31 August 1782 the Regiments (except for the King's Own and King's) were given county titles 'which may at all times be useful towards recruiting'. The new titles were:

The 30th, or Cambridgeshire, Regiment

The 34th, or Cumberland, Regiment

The 40th, or 2nd Somersetshire, Regiment

The 47th, or Lancashire, Regiment

The 55th, or Westmoreland, Regiment

The 59th, or 2nd Nottinghamshire, Regiment

The 63rd, or West Suffolk, Regiment

### **The French Revolutionary War 1793-1802**

In 1793 war with Revolutionary France found Britain militarily unprepared and additional regiments were hurriedly raised. Two of these were formed in Lincolnshire, largely from militia volunteers. These were the 81st, popularly known as The Loyal Lincoln Volunteers, and the 82nd, who earned the title of The Prince of Wales's Volunteers. These subsidiary titles were officially authorised in 1832 and 1831 respectively. Foreigners were also enlisted, and in 1798 the Minorca Regiment was formed on that island from nominally 'Swiss' prisoners of war. This was later to enter the British line as the 96th Foot.

**The Mediterranean.** The first priority on the outbreak of war was to man the Fleet, and accordingly the 30th Foot once again became Marines, serving gallantly in that role at the defence of Toulon, at the capture of Bastia and Calvi in Corsica (under Nelson's command), and in several fleet and single ship actions in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. In 1798, after a spell in Ireland, they returned to the Mediterranean, first occupying Sicily, then in 1799-1800 taking part in the capture of Malta from the French.

**The West Indies.** Reinforcements were also poured into the commercially-valuable West Indian islands. The flank companies of the 8th, 40th and 55th were sent in 1794 with an elite force which rapidly captured Martinique and St Lucia before succumbing on Guadeloupe, more from disease than enemy action. Over the next few years the 8th, 34th, 40th, 47th, 55th, 59th, 63rd, 81st and 82nd all saw much service in the West Indies, fighting many small actions against the French and local insurgents on the islands of St Vincent, Grenada, St Lucia (again), and San Domingo (now Haiti), and on the mainland in Honduras. All were virtually destroyed by disease.

**Holland.** In Europe the Regiments were involved in several attempts to cooperate with unreliable allies against the revolutionaries. In 1793 the 40th and 59th took part in an abortive expedition to aid the French Royalists in the Vendee, and the following year they joined the 8th, 55th and 63rd with the Duke of York's army, then withdrawing through Holland. All five Regiments were engaged in a sortie from Nijmegen, while the 59th, supported by the 40th, fought a sharp rearguard action near Arnhem before the Regiments shared in a harsh winter retreat to Bremen. In 1799 three battalions of the 4th and two of the 40th, together with the 55th and 63rd, were again in Holland where in an otherwise ill-managed allied campaign the 40th fought a brilliant Regimental action near Alkmaar while the 63rd fought particularly well at Bergen-op-Zoom, Egmont-op-Zee and Beverwijk.

**Egypt and the Sphinx.** In 1801 the 8th and 30th, together with the Minorca Regiment and four flank companies of the 40th, joined Sir Ralph Abercromby's expedition to wrest Egypt from the French. The 8th and 40th took part in a daring assault landing in Aboukir Bay, where the 40th won the admiration of the army, and all four Regiments took part in the battle of Alexandria, where the 40th and the Minorca Regiment earned particular distinction. The army then advanced up the Nile to capture Cairo, and the campaign was concluded with the fall of Alexandria, where the 30th earned fresh laurels in a Regimental action at the Green Hill. All four Regiments were awarded a Sphinx superscribed 'Egypt', to be displayed on their Colours and badges.

### **The Napoleonic Wars 1803-15**

Peace with France came in 1802, but lasted barely a year. Under the threat of invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte the British Army expanded rapidly and all our predecessor regiments raised second battalions. The initial priority was home defence, but from 1805 the emphasis switched to expeditionary warfare in support of a succession of alliances.

**Northern Europe.** In 1805 the 1/4th, 1/8th and 1/30th were sent to Germany but, compromised by unreliable allies, were shortly withdrawn. In 1807 the 1/4th, 1/8th and 1/82nd captured Copenhagen and secured the Danish fleet, while in 1808 the 1/4th were sent to Göteborg in Sweden. In 1809 both battalions of the 4th, together with the 2/59th, 2/63rd, 2/81st and 2/82nd, were despatched with an ill-fated expedition to Walcheren, at the mouth of the Scheldt, where battle casualties were few but fever took a heavy toll.

**Italy.** In 1806 the 1/81st were part of an expeditionary force which, having occupied Sicily, routed a French army at the battle of Maida in southern Italy.

**South Africa.** Also in 1806, the 1/59th took part in the capture of the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch. This was not the first regimental visit to the Cape, for the 1/81st had seen active service there 1799-1802 during the Third Cape Frontier War.

**South America.** In 1807 the 1/40th and 1/47th were in South America, adding Monte Video to the Regiment's battle honours.

**West Indies.** In 1809 the 1/8th captured the French island of Martinique, while the following year the 1/63rd, having occupied Madeira, again took Guadeloupe.

### **The Peninsula Wars 1808-14**

But the main arena for British arms was to be Spain and Portugal, where the 1/40th, 1/82nd and the former Minorca Regiment (now numbered 97th) landed in 1808 under Sir Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington, and helped gain his early victories at Rolica and Vimiera. Later that year the 1/4th, 2/59th, 2/81st and 2/82nd took part in Sir John Moore's audacious advance into Spain and his subsequent retirement to and stand at Corunna, where the 4th, 59th and 81st gained particular distinction, before evacuation to England.

Meanwhile the 40th had remained in Spain (indeed they were one of only three regiments to serve throughout the long campaign) and in 1809 they earned fresh laurels at the battle of Talavera. In 1810 they were present at the battle of Busaco and took part in the strategic withdrawal to the Lines of Torres Vedras. British reinforcements in 1809-10 included the 1/4th, 2/30th, 2/34th, 2/47th and 1/82nd. In 1811 the 4th and 30th were present at the battle of Fuentes d'Onoro, the 34th and a detachment of the 40th took part in the bloody battle of Albuhera, and the flank companies of the 81st and 82nd played a prominent part in the hard fought victory of Barossa. At Arroyo dos Molinos, on 28 October, the 34th captured the French 34th Regiment together with its drums, earning an unique battle honour which is commemorated annually in the Regiment. Finally, on New Year's Eve of that year the 47th, supported by the 82nd, repulsed a French assault on the town of Tarifa.



Before he could advance into Spain in 1812 Wellington had to capture the frontier fortresses. The 40th took an active part in the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, and then the 4th and 30th (brigaded together), and the 40th displayed great gallantry and sustained severe casualties in their successful assault on the grim fortress of Badajoz, one of the fiercest fights in the history of the Army. Later that year all three Regiments again distinguished themselves at the battle of Salamanca, where the 30th captured a French Eagle. The campaign ended with another retirement on Portugal, during which the 4th and 30th fought a successful delaying action at Villa Muriel; likewise the 47th at Puente Largo. Meanwhile the 81st were engaged on the east coast at Denia.

The following spring Wellington advanced to drive the French out of Spain, and with him marched the 1/4th, 2/47th and 2/59th (together forming Robinson's Brigade), and the 2/34th, 1/40th and 1/82nd. All were heavily engaged at Vittoria, where Robinson's Brigade carried the village of Gamara Mayor in the day's heaviest fighting. The 34th and 82nd then fought a desperate defensive battle at Maya, while the 40th greatly distinguished itself by routing a French brigade at Sorauren, for which they were awarded the battle honour Pyrenees. Meanwhile Robinson's Brigade was in action at San Sebastian, which they gallantly stormed, leaving 865 casualties in the breach. Meanwhile the 40th and 82nd were engaged on the Heights of Salain. Wellington then entered France where the Regiments saw hard fighting at

the crossing of the Bidassoa and the battles of the Nivelle, Nive and St Pierre before winter brought the campaign of 1813 to a close. Meanwhile the 1/81st took part in diversionary operations on the east coast of Spain, seeing action at the battle of Castalla, the siege of Tarragona and the combat of Villafranca.

In 1814 the 34th, 40th and 82nd fought at Orthes and the 34th and 40th were appropriately in action at Toulouse, the last battle of the Peninsula War, while the 4th, 47th and 59th were besieging Bayonne when news came of Napoleon's abdication.

**Holland.** Also in 1814, the 2/30th, 55th and 2/81st joined an expedition to open a second front in the Low Countries and besiege Antwerp, in the course of which the 55th had the misfortune to be involved in a disastrously managed attempt to storm the strong fortress of Bergen-op-Zoom.

**The East Indies.** Meanwhile the 1st Battalions of the 30th, 34th, 47th and 59th were serving in India, from where expeditions were mounted against the colonies of France and her allies. In 1807 the 30th saw active service at sea. In 1809 the 59th took part in the capture of Mauritius from the French and subsequently the same Regiment played a leading role in the capture of Java, Sumatra, Bali and the Celebes from the Dutch and local princes. The hard-fought battle of Cornelis in Java, 1811, stands as one of the greatest achievements in the history of the 59th Regiment. The 30th, 34th and 47th, meanwhile, were fully extended in maintaining the security of British India and dealing with several insurrections and mutinies.

#### **War with the United States 1812-14**

Peace in Europe brought no respite for the Peninsula veterans, for the 4th, 40th, 81st and 82nd were despatched to North America, where the 8th had been stationed on the Canadian frontier since 1810. The 4th fought at the battle of Bladensburg, which led to the capture of Washington, but then suffered heavy losses in the attack on New Orleans. The 40th was present at the subsequent capture of Mobile. The 8th fought throughout the war on the Canadian frontier, at York, Stoney Creek, Chippewa, Lundy's Lane and elsewhere, while the 82nd repelled a final attack on Canada to share with the 8th in the battle honour Niagara.

#### **Waterloo 1815**

In 1815 Napoleon returned from exile and the 1/4th, 2/30th, 1/40th, 2/59th and 2/81st joined Wellington's army for the Waterloo campaign. The 30th took part in the initial engagement at Quatre Bras, where they steadily formed square to repulse French cavalry charges, and were with the rearguard when Wellington fell back to his chosen ground at Waterloo. The 4th and 40th returned from America just in time to join the army at Waterloo shortly before the battle commenced on 18 June 1815. The 59th were with a brigade detached to cover Wellington's right flank while the 81st, despite their entreaties, could not be spared from duties in Brussels.

The 30th occupied a position in the right centre of the British front line throughout the day and for six hours sustained the attacks of massed cavalry and infantry supported by murderous artillery fire. Eleven times they were charged by Marshal Ney's cavalry but the square was never broken. Towards the end of the day they advanced in line to meet a column of Napoleon's Imperial Guard and routed them with one volley. By evening nearly half the battalion had fallen and the survivors were commanded by the officer sixth in seniority, all his seniors having been killed or wounded.

The 4th and 40th were at first in reserve but later were moved into the centre of the allied line, on Wellington's 'vital ground' near the farm of La Haye Sainte. There, like the 30th, they withstood repeated attacks by cavalry and infantry and were pounded by cannon, but they too stood firm. Towards evening they drove back Napoleon's final attack by massed infantry. Shortly afterwards the Duke of Wellington personally ordered them to advance, at which they charged, swept away the French infantry to their front and took part in the recapture of La Haye Sainte.

For their steadfastness and discipline at Waterloo the 4th, 30th and 40th were permitted to encircle their badge with a Laurel Wreath. The battle is commemorated annually as a major Regimental Day.

After Waterloo the 59th took part in the storming of Cambrai and, with the 4th, 30th, 40th, 81st and 82nd, the occupation of Paris. The campaign had a tragic sequel for the 2/59th and 1/82nd when those two battalions were wrecked off the Irish coast with the loss of some 550 men, women and children, the greatest disaster in the Regiment's long history.

### **Outposts of Empire 1815-54**

In the 40 years between Waterloo and the outbreak of the Crimean War our predecessors had few home postings, spending long periods in overseas garrisons guarding British trade routes and the frontiers of the rapidly expanding Empire. Their stations spanned the world, from Canada, the West Indies and Bermuda to Gibraltar, Malta and the Ionian Islands, and on via Arabia, Mauritius, South Africa, India, Ceylon, Afghanistan, China and Burma to Australia and New Zealand.

**Third Mahratta War.** In 1817-18 the 30th, 34th, 47th and 59th campaigned against the turbulent Pindaris of Central India and the 30th were present at the reduction of their last stronghold at Asseerghur.

**Ceylon.** In 1818 the 59th were in Ceylon for the Kandyan War.

**Persian Gulf.** In 1819 the 47th were sent on an expedition which captured the pirate lair of Ras-al-Khyma on the Straits of Hormuz.

**Ionian Islands.** Meanwhile the 8th were in action against rebel Greeks on Corfu.

**First Burmese War.** War with Burma in 1825-26 involved the 47th in much arduous campaigning and several sharp encounters, earning them the battle honour Ava.

**Bhurtapore.** Meanwhile the 59th took part in a war with the Jats in India, during which they displayed great gallantry at the storming of the previously impregnable fortress of Bhurtapore, 1826.

**Portugal.** In 1827 the 63rd were part of a British force which briefly intervened in Portugal, where their very presence sufficed to restore stability.

**Coorg.** In 1834 the 55th took part in an expedition against the rebellious Rajah of Coorg which involved them in severe fighting at Soamwar Pettah.

**First China War.** In this punitive campaign of 1840-42 the 55th stormed Amoy, Chusan, Ningpo, Chapoo and Nankin, carrying all before them and compelling the Emperor to sue for



peace. For their gallant part in these operations, during which they captured an Imperial Standard, the 55th were awarded the distinction of a Dragon inscribed 'China'.

**Canada.** In 1838 the 34th assisted in quelling a republican rebellion in Upper Canada.

**First Afghan War.** In 1839 the 40th were present at the capture of Karachi and were then heavily engaged in Afghanistan, earning the battle honours Candahar 1842, Ghuznee 1842 and Cabul 1842 for their unbroken string of victories in an otherwise disastrous war.

**Maharajpore.** Returning to India, the 40th took part in the Gwalior campaign of 1843 and were awarded the battle honour Maharajpore and a special medal made of captured guns for their distinguished services in that hard-fought engagement.

**First Maori War.** The 96th fought throughout this first campaign in New Zealand, 1845-47.

**Australia.** In 1854 the 40th faced insurgency in the goldfields of New South Wales and took part in the only 'battle' on Australian soil when they stormed the rebel entrenchment at the Eureka Stockade

### **The Crimean War 1854-55**

The 30th, 47th, 55th and 63rd formed part of the British army despatched to the Crimea in 1854. The 30th, 47th and 55th, brigaded together, advanced gallantly and side by side against the centre of the Russian line at the battle of the Alma, when the 4th and 63rd were also present.

The 30th, 47th and 55th then fought with great determination and success at the battle of Inkerman, where they repeatedly charged with the bayonet to hold off massed Russian attacks at odds of four to one until Allied reinforcements, including the 4th and 63rd, could arrive. The 63rd also distinguished itself in this close quarter 'soldiers' battle', which is commemorated annually by the Regiment on 5 November. Victoria Crosses (VCs) were earned by Lieutenant and Adjutant Walker of the 30th, Private McDermond of the 47th and Private Beach of the 55th.

Having endured the cruel winter of 1854/55, during which the 34th also joined the army, all six regiments took a prominent part in the siege of Sevastopol, the capture of which virtually ended the war. VCs were won by Private Grady of the 4th, Privates Coffey and Sims of the 34th, and Major Elton of the 55th, and the regiments saw particularly hard fighting at the capture of the Quarries and the assault on the Redan. The 82nd also joined the army in the Crimea in 1855.

### **Soldiers of the Queen 1856-81**

**The Indian Mutiny.** The 8th and 81st were already in India when the Mutiny broke out in 1857, and the 4th, 34th and 82nd were hurried east as reinforcements. The 81st disarmed the mutineers around Lahore, where their presence did much to keep the Punjab loyal, while the 8th secured Jullundur and then played a prominent part in the siege and storming of Delhi and at Agra. The 8th, 34th and 82nd then saw considerable fighting at Cawnpore and Lucknow. A VC was won by Private Richardson of the 34th. Subsequently all four regiments took part in the systematic clearance of rebel forces from Northern India, the 34th and 81st pursuing them into Nepal and over the North West Frontier respectively while the 82nd were heavily engaged at Shahjehanpore and elsewhere in Oude.

**Second China War.** Also in 1857, the 59th earned the battle honour Canton for their part in the storming of that city by an international force. As the 59th was the only British regiment to take part, this honour is unique in the Army.

**Second Maori War.** The 40th took part in many hard-fought engagements with the Maoris in New Zealand between 1860 and 1866, in one of which Colour-Sergeant Lucas earned the VC.

**Bhutan.** In 1865-66 the 55th were engaged in operations in Bhutan.

**Abyssinia.** In 1867-68 the 4th took part in the epic march to capture King Theodore's mountain stronghold at Magdala, routing the Ethiopian army at the battle of Arogi.

**Fenian Raids.** In 1866 the 30th and 47th were in Canada when they were called on to repel an Irish 'invasion' across the American frontier.

**Zulu War.** In 1879 the 4th were involved in the Zulu War. The Regiment was mainly employed on the lines of communication but detachments, including the Mounted Infantry, saw some action.

**Second Afghan War.** The 8th, 59th, 63rd and 81st all took part in this campaign. In 1878 the 8th and 81st were in action at Peiwar Kotal and Ali Masjid respectively, while in 1880 the 59th took part in the fierce battle of Ahmad Khel, the last occasion when the regiment fought in traditional close order around its Colours. Captain Sartorius of the 59th was awarded a VC.

**Egypt 1882.** The 63rd took part in the brief campaign which consolidated British power in Egypt.

**Third Burmese War.** The 8th took part in the protracted campaign, 1885-87, to depose the tyrannical King Thibaw and subjugate Upper Burma. Trouble broke out again in 1889 and the 34th were among the troops then sent to restore order.

**North West Frontier of India.** The turbulent frontier with Afghanistan remained a constant threat to the security of India. In 1891 the 96th participated in a punitive expedition to the Miranzai Valley, while in 1894-9 the 55th were involved in operations in Waziristan and in 1895 the 30th took part in the relief of Chitral.

### **Army Reorganisation**

In 1873 the territorial basis of Army recruiting was reorganised and this was further confirmed on 1 July 1881 when many of the old Regiments of Foot were linked and all were redesignated as follows:



<b>Pre-1881 Number</b>	<b>Post-1881 Name</b>	<b>Depot</b>
4th	The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)	Lancaster
8th	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)	Warrington (Seaforth 1910)
30th	1st Bn The East Lancashire Regiment	Burnley (Preston 1898)
59th	2nd Bn The East Lancashire Regiment	
34th	1st Bn The Border Regiment	Carlisle
55th	2nd Bn The Border Regiment	
40th	1st Bn The South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers)	Preston
87th	2nd Bn The South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers)	
7th	1st Bn The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment	Preston
81st	2nd Bn The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment	
63rd	1st Bn The Manchester Regiment	Ashton-under-Lyne
96th	2nd Bn The Manchester Regiment	

The Militia and Volunteer units of Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmoreland were also linked to the new County and City Regiments. These battalions that were now brought into the regimental families had their own antecedents, which in the case of the Militia dated back to 18th century reforms of the County forces. The Militia had been expanded and embodied for home defence during the Napoleonic wars, and again for the Crimea when they took over garrison duties in Ireland and the Mediterranean. Corps of Rifle Volunteers were formed from 1859 in response to invasion threats by Napoleon III of France, and the towns of the North West were among the foremost in raising such units.

It is of interest to note that at the time of this reorganisation the 'Fighting Fortieth' were entitled to bear 19 battle honours, more than any other Regiment entitled to carry Colours except the 1st Foot.

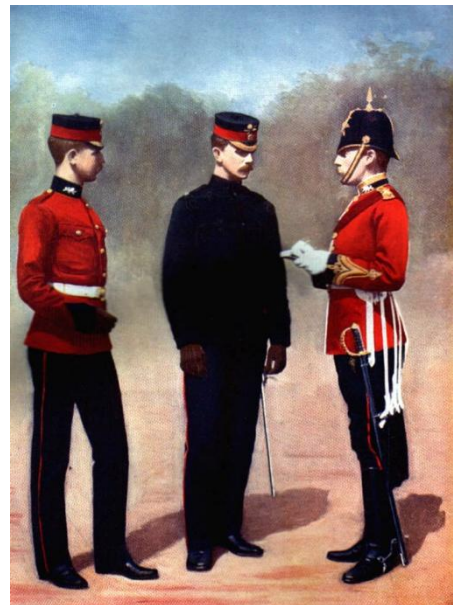
Although numerical titles were officially abolished in 1881 they will continue to be used in this short history, for the sake of brevity, to designate the old Regular battalions.

### **The South African War 1899-1902**

Regular battalions of all our predecessor regiments were engaged in the Boer War, as were formed Militia battalions and a succession of Active Service Companies drawn from the Volunteers. This joint venture was a defining experience for the Regimental System, bonding the newly extended regiments as living, organic 'families' with strong local roots and a collective pride in their heritage and achievements.

The 47th were part of the pre-war garrison at the Cape and just before the outbreak of hostilities half the Battalion was sent to Defend Kimberley. The town was soon besieged but held out until relieved by a force which included the remaining companies of the Regiment, which was awarded the unique battle honour Defence of Kimberley. The companies with the relief force took a prominent part in the battles of Graspan and Modder River.

The 8th were also in South Africa at the outbreak of war and were moved up to the town of Ladysmith, where they were joined by the 63rd. The latter were soon in action at the battle of Elandslaagte, but despite this victory Ladysmith was soon invested by the Boers, who from positions on surrounding heights blocked successive relief attempts. The King's and Manchesters suffered great privations during the 118-day siege, in which starvation and disease added to the casualty list. Both Regiments took part in the action on 6 January 1900 to repel a strong Boer attack on Caesar's Camp, when VCs were won by Privates Pitts and Scott of the 63rd. The 8th and 63rd were awarded the battle honour Defence of Ladysmith.



Beyond the Tugela, the 34th fought at Colenso in Buller's first unsuccessful attempt to relieve Ladysmith, while the 4th and 40th, together in the Lancashire Brigade, together with the 34th, took part in the battle of Spion Kop. All three regiments then fought at Vaal Krantz, and finally on the Tugela Heights in the offensive which led to the Relief of Ladysmith. The 40th earned particular distinction at the breakthrough battle of Pieters Hill, when the Commanding Officer was killed leading the charge that finally broke the Boer position. The anniversary of the relief, 28 February, is celebrated as a major Regimental Day.

The 30th, meanwhile, were with Lord Roberts' army which marched on Pretoria. They fought at Jacobsdaal, Karee and the Zand River, earning high praise for their part in these actions.

From Ladysmith the 4th and 40th moved north, clearing a path through the Drakensberg Mountains at the battles of Botha's Pass and Alleman's Nek. The 34th marched to the relief of Wepener and fought a fierce action at Bushman's Kop, while the 8th and 63rd were in action at Graskop, at Van Wyk's Vlei, where Sergeant Hampton and Corporal Knight of the

8th earned VCs, and at Geluk Farm, where Private Heaton of the 8th also won the highest award for gallantry.

Although the Boer field armies were now defeated an arduous guerrilla campaign lasted until 1902 and our predecessor Regiments all fought many minor engagements, and some few larger actions, both on foot and as mounted infantry. For their services the Regiments were awarded the battle honour South Africa 1899-1902.

**The Territorial Force.** Further Army reform and reorganisation followed the Boer War, and in 1908 the Volunteer battalions were redesignated and formed into operational Territorial Force divisions on a County or Regional basis.

### **The Great War 1914-18**

During the Great War our predecessors raised some 176 battalions, of whom 109 saw active service overseas, earning 124 battle honours and 43 VCs. Many of these battalions fought side by side: for instance, the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division had two battalions of East Lancashire territorials and six of Manchesters, 55th (West Lancashire) Division contained two battalions each of the King's Own, South Lancashires and Loyals, and six battalions of the King's, while the 13th (Western) Division had the 6th Battalions of the King's Own, East Lancashires, South Lancashires and Loyals, all in the same brigade. The 19th, 30th, 57th and 66th Divisions were similarly constituted.

**France and Flanders.** The 1/4th, 1/8th, 30th, 47th, 63rd, 82nd and 96th formed part of the original British Expeditionary Force of 1914, the celebrated 'Old Contemptibles', earning 13 battle honours of which Mons, Retreat from Mons, Marne 1914, Aisne 1914, Messines 1914 and Ypres 1914 are borne on the present Colours. They were joined in France before the year's end by the 55th and 59th. Drummer Bent of the 30th won the VC, as did Privates Acton and Smith of the 55th and 2nd Lieutenant Leach and Sergeant Hogan of the 96th. The pre-war Regular Army fought virtually to the death in the desperate fighting of late 1914.

In 1915 the surviving Regulars were reinforced by an increasing flow of Territorials and newly-formed Service battalions of Kitchener's 'New Army'. Lancashire and Border battalions took a notable part in the Neuve Chapelle offensive, the first major British attempt to break the stalemate on the Western Front, then fought the defensive battle of Second Ypres, where Corporal Smith of the 63rd earned a VC, and took part in the Loos offensive, in which the highest award for gallantry was won by Lance Corporal Tombs of the 8th and Private Kenny of the 47th. Later in the year the award was also made to Private Christian, 2nd King's Own, and to Private Young, 8th East Lancashires. In the early months of 1916 VCs were earned by 2nd Lieutenant Baxter, 1/8th King's, Private Proctor, 1/5th King's, and Lieutenant Wilkinson, 8th Loyals.



By early 1916 there were 50 Lancashire battalions and 7 Border on the Western Front. Almost all of these took part in the great Somme offensive of that year. On 1 July 1916, the opening day of the battle, at Beaumont Hamel and Serre the 1st and 11th East Lancashires advanced

steadily across open ground in the face of German machine guns and unbroken wire, sustaining well over a thousand casualties in minutes. Further south at Montauban eight Liverpool and Manchester 'Pals' battalions of the 30th Division met with better fortune, taking their objectives in the major British success of the day. Nineteen of our predecessor battalions were in action that day, which is commemorated annually in the Regiment. The offensive continued until October, by which time both sides had suffered appalling losses, not least in battalions from the North West. Among their many hard-fought and gallant actions, those around Ovilliers-La Boisselle, and Guillemont are particularly notable. They had added 13 battle honours to their Colours, and VCs had been won by Private Miller, 7th King's Own, Sergeant Jones, 12th King's, 2nd Lieutenant Coury, 1/4th South Lancashires, Lieutenant Wilkinson, 7th Loyals, and WOII Evans, 18th Manchesters, together with Captain Chavasse, Medical Officer of the Liverpool Scottish.

1917 saw our Regimental strength in France and Flanders reach a remarkable peak of 85 battalions. Lancashire and Border battalions took part in the costly Arras offensive and the more successful battle of Messines, in which Private Ratcliffe MM of the 82nd earned a VC, while no fewer than 65 of our battalions fought in the mud of Third Ypres at Passchendaele and elsewhere. VCs were won in the Ypres Salient by Private Halton of the 1st King's Own, Lance-Sergeant Fletcher, 1/4th King's Own and Sergeant Coverdale, 11th Manchesters, and Captain Chavasse of the Liverpool Scottish was awarded a posthumous bar to his VC. Later that year battalions were in action at Cambrai, near where Lance-Sergeant Neely, 8th King's Own, and Sergeant Mott DCM, 1st Border won VCs and the 55th Division fought a difficult defensive battle. Private Mills, 1/10th Manchesters earned the award at Givenchy and Sergeant Spackman, 1st Border, at Marcoing.

In the final German offensive of spring 1918 the Lancashire and Border battalions fought on stubbornly, despite mounting casualties, until the attack was halted. There were many feats of heroism, notably at Givenchy where the 55th Division stood firm and VCs were earned by 2nd Lieutenant Collin and Lance-Corporal Hewitson of 1/4th King's Own. The award was also made to Private Counter, 1st King's, 2nd Lieutenant Horsfall, 11th East Lancashires, A/Lieutenant Colonel Forbes Robertson, 1st Border, Corporal Davies, 11th South Lancashires, and Lieutenant-Colonel Elstob, 16th Manchesters. All then took part in the allied offensive which breached the Hindenburg Line and brought the war to an end, in the course of which 2nd Lieutenant Kirk of the 96th and Private Wilkinson, 1/5th Manchesters, earned VCs, and Lieutenant Wilfred Owen MC of the 63rd, the great war poet, was killed one week before the Armistice. Private Isaac Rosenberg of the King's Own, another celebrated war poet, was also killed in action in 1918.

**Italy.** The 55th served on the Italian front against the Austro-Hungarians in 1917-18, together with three Service battalions of the Manchesters, earning three battle honours including Vittorio Veneto and Piave.

**East Africa.** The 81st served in East Africa 1914-16. They were present at Tanga and earned the battle honour Kilimanjaro before their transfer to Palestine and subsequently the Western Front.

**Gallipoli.** In 1915 fifteen battalions of our predecessors fought on the Gallipoli Peninsula, mainly in the 13th and 42nd Divisions, but it was the Regular 34th that landed first at Helle. The 42nd Division subsequently had heavy casualties in repeated and gallant attempts to break through the Turkish lines at Krithia, while the 13th Division, having landed at Suvla, experienced severe fighting and devastating losses at Sari Bair. The 1st and 6th Border also

fought in this area, where both battalions also suffered very heavy losses. VCs were awarded to Lieutenant Forshaw, 9th Manchesters, and to 2nd Lieutenant Smith, 5th East Lancashires.

**Egypt and Palestine.** The 13th and 42nd Divisions then participated in the defence of Egypt against the Turks, and in 1917-18 five Lancashire battalions were engaged in the capture of Palestine, where the 63rd took part in the decisive battle of Megiddo and eight battle honours were earned.

**Mesopotamia.** The four Lancashire Battalions in 13th Division distinguished themselves in the hard-fought advance up the Tigris to Baghdad and beyond, and especially at the Diyala Crossing, winning four battle honours. VCs were awarded to Private White, 6th Kings Own, Private Readitt, 6th South Lancashires, Captain Reid, King's, attached 6th Loyals, and the Reverend Addison. They were joined on the Tigris by the 63rd, serving with the Indian Corps: Private Stringer of that battalion was awarded a VC.

**Macedonia.** One 'Kitchener' battalion of each Regiment saw active service in Macedonia against the Bulgarians and their German allies, together with the Regular 2nd King's Own, earning five battle honours and taking part in particularly heavy fighting at Doiran before the Bulgarian surrender.

### **Between the Wars**

**Occupation.** In the immediate aftermath of the war battalions were involved in occupation duties in Germany until 1929, and, following the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, in Turkey, Greece, Palestine, Iraq and Cyprus.

**Russia.** In 1918-19 Russia was in a state of civil war and the 17th King's were part of an international force which occupied Archangel in support of the White Russians and fought some minor actions with the Bolsheviks.

**Ireland.** Ten of our Regular battalions served in Ireland during the Sinn Fein insurrection of 1919-22, acting 'in aid of the civil power' and having numerous brushes with the Republican rebels.

**Iraq.** In 1920-21 the 96th was stationed in Iraq, losing 134 dead when a column was overwhelmed near Hillah by rebel tribesmen. Captain Henderson, who died fighting, was awarded a VC. The 2nd King's were based in Baghdad 1925-27, when they handed over to the newly-formed Iraqi army.

**Turkey 1921-23.** The 47th were sent from Constantinople to Chanak (now Canakkale) on the Dardanelles, where they successfully interposed themselves between Greeks and Turks during the Greco-Turkish War; in 1931 the 1st King's did likewise in Cyprus.

**Palestine.** In the late 1930s the 2nd King's Own, 34th, 47th and 63rd fought a counter-insurgency campaign in Palestine, where they had many successful engagements with armed gangs of Arab terrorists.

**North West Frontier.** The 2nd King's and the 40th had remained on the turbulent North West Frontier of India throughout the war and were joined there by 1/4th and 2/4th Border. In 1915 the King's saw action against Mohmand tribesmen, and the 40th was the only British battalion awarded the battle honour Baluchistan 1918, while all three Regiments were involved in the Third Afghan War, 1919. The 34th were in action in Waziristan in 1922-23,

the 40th saw further service on the North West Frontier in 1932-33, and the 1st King's in 1937.

**Burma.** In 1930-31 the 96th were deployed to help defeat a rebellion north of Rangoon.

**China.** Following the fall of the Manchu dynasty China was plunged into civil war and Japanese intervention, and international forces were sent to preserve foreign interests. The 30th, 34th, 47th, 55th, 59th and 81st all served there in the 1920s and 30s, guarding the legations in Peking and defending international settlements at Tientsin, Canton, and most importantly Shanghai.



**Other Postings.** Other more peaceful overseas postings took battalions to Bermuda, Jamaica, Germany, Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, Sudan, Aden, India, Burma, China, Hong Kong and Singapore.



### **The Second World War 1939-45**

In the course of the war of 1939-45 our predecessors raised some 67 battalions, of whom 37 saw overseas service in the infantry role, earning 108 battle honours, and 20 were converted to other arms: seven Royal Armoured Corps, nine Royal Artillery, two Reconnaissance Corps and two Parachute battalions. Both Regular battalions of the Manchesters, together with the 7th and 9th, were converted to medium machine gun (MMG) battalions.

**Dunkirk 1940.** Fifteen battalions drawn from all our predecessor regiments, less Kings, went to France in 1939-40 and were involved in the retreat to Dunkirk, fighting rearguard actions on the Dyle and Escaut and around Arras until outflanked by the French and Belgian collapse. The 30th, 40th and 47th particularly distinguished themselves in covering the evacuation and a VC was earned by Captain Ervine-Andrews of the 30th. The Lancashire battalions were among the very last to leave France, just as four years later they would be among the first to return.

**In Defence of Britain.** Following the Dunkirk evacuation the Army prepared for a German invasion and many of our battalions prepared and manned beach defences; but as the immediate threat receded training began for offensive operations. New battalions were raised, and some were converted to Armour or Artillery at this time, while many officers and men volunteered for the newly-formed Army Commandos, 2 Commando in particular having a strong Lancashire contingent.

**Malaya and Singapore 1941-42.** The 81st fought several rearguard actions against the Japanese in Malaya and, together with the 63rd, remained in action on Singapore Island until ordered to capitulate. 18th Recce Regiment (formerly 6th Loyals) arrived in Singapore without equipment in time to share their fate and the survivors of all three battalions suffered cruelly in captivity.



**Madagascar 1942.** Later in 1942 the 59th and 82nd, in the same brigade, took part in highly successful combined operations to capture Madagascar from the Vichy French.

**Malta.** When Italy entered the war on the Axis side the 8th Manchesters were the only infantry in garrison on Malta. The 8th King's Own reinforced the island 1941-43, and both shared in the defence which earned the beleaguered island a George Cross.

**Iraq 1941.** Following a pro-German coup in Iraq 1st King's Own were flown in from India and defeated the Iraqi army at the Defence of Habbaniya (an unique honour) and the battle of Fallujah, then occupied key points in the north of the country.

**Syria 1941.** The 2nd King's Own fought in two actions against the Vichy French forces in Syria, at Merjayun and on the mountainous Jebel Mazar. The 4th Border were also engaged in Syria.

**North Africa 1940-43.** The 2nd King's Own deployed briefly to the Western Desert in 1940, as did 4th Border in June 1941, but the first significant Regimental engagement was at Tobruk, where the isolated garrison was reinforced by sea in November 1941 by 2nd King's Own and 4th Border, both of whom took part in the successful Tobruk Sortie before being withdrawn for service in the Far East. The 1st King's Own were less fortunate when they suffered severely in the June 1942 withdrawal to Egypt. The 40th and 41st RTR (formerly 7th Kings and 10th Manchesters) then contributed to the decisive victory at El Alamein. From March 1943 the 47th were with the 1st Army in Tunisia where they fought several desperate battles and earned seven battle honours, most notably Djebel KessKiss and Gueriat el Atach. A posthumous VC was awarded to Lieutenant Sandys-Clarke. The campaign ended with the surrender of the Axis forces in North Africa.

**Sicily 1943.** On the night of 9/10 July 1943 the 1st Border took part in a costly glider-borne assault on Sicily: due to poor weather 65% of the gliders came down in the sea with heavy loss. Nevertheless the objective, Ponte Grande, was secured, leading to the early capture of the port of Syracuse, and in addition to the battle honour Landing in Sicily the Regiment was in 1949 awarded the distinction of a Glider flash which is worn to the present day. The 47th meanwhile occupied the nearby island of Pantelleria.

**Leros 1943.** In November 1943 the 1st King's Own were sent to the island of Leros, off the coast of Turkey. One week later the island was subjected to a German seaborne and air landing and, after fierce fighting without air cover, was obliged to surrender. The 8th King's Own was subsequently redesignated as the 1st Battalion.

**Italy 1943-45.** The re-formed 1st King's Own, the 2nd King's, 1st Border, 1st and 2nd Loyals, and 8th and 9th Manchesters all took part in the Italian campaign, overcoming a succession of river and mountain obstacles as they fought their way up the peninsula. In January 1944 the 47th played a decisive part in holding the Anzio bridgehead and then advanced through Rome, Florence and the Gothic Line to Monte Grande, where the re-formed 81st also saw action. The 2nd King's had their first major engagement at the Rapido Crossing, part of the battle for Cassino, and then fought their way through the Trasimene Line and Rimini Line. The re-formed 1st King's Own distinguished itself at Montone and saw heavy fighting on the Adriatic front. The Manchesters arrived in the summer of 1944, when the 8th Battalion took part in the advance to the Gothic Line while the 9th, in the MMG role, provided support in many actions on the Adriatic front, most notably at Monte Gridolfo. The Lancashire battalions were awarded 27 battle honours for their part in the Italian campaign, of which four are unique: Montone and San Martino Sogliano earned by the

King's Own, Tuori by the King's, and Fiesole by the Loyals. A posthumous GC was won in Italy by Corporal Horsfield of the Manchesters, attached SAS.

**Athens.** In December 1944 the 2nd King's and 9th Manchesters, together with 40 RTR (formerly 7th King's) were sent from Italy to Greece, where communist partisans had taken over a large part of Athens. Several weeks of street fighting ensued before the city was cleared. The Manchesters were then deployed to the border with Albania, while the King's carried out internal security duties in Greece until early 1946.

**Normandy 1944.** On D-Day, 6 June 1944, the 40th were one of the two assault battalions of 3rd Division who captured the initial beachhead and earned the battle honour Normandy Landing. The 5th and 8th King's and 6th Border were also present that day, acting as Beach Groups, while the 13th (Lancashire) Parachute Battalion, formerly 2/4th South Lancashires, was the first to drop in Normandy. The 40th was then involved in fierce fighting on the approaches to Caen and the Bourgebus Ridge. The 30th and 5th East Lancashires soon also arrived in France, the former being supported in 53rd Division by the 63rd in the MMG role. The 30th, 40th, 63rd and 5th East Lancashires all fought in the breakout from Normandy which led to victory at Falaise, as did 107th (King's Own), 144th and 148th Regiments RAC, formerly 5th King's Own, 8th East Lancashires and 9th Loyals respectively. The 5th King's Own received the Honorary Distinction of the Mailed Fist badge of the RAC.

**Holland and Belgium 1944-45.** Following a rapid advance across France and Belgium the Allies attempted to force a series of river crossings in Holland and the 34th, still in its glider role, shared in the famous Market Garden operation at Arnhem, holding the Airborne perimeter around Oosterbeek until ordered to withdraw, while the 30th, supported by the 63rd, carried out an assault crossing of the Albert Canal. The 30th, 40th and 63rd all took part in subsequent operations to widen the Market Garden corridor and played important parts in the capture of s'Hertogenbosch, Overloon and Venraij, while 7th Manchesters, the MMG battalion of 52nd Division, took part in operations to capture the Scheldt estuary islands of Walcheren and South Beveland. The 30th and 63rd were then rushed south to counter the German offensive in the Ardennes, where the 30th, supported by 144th Regiment RAC, and the 13th (Lancashire) Parachute Battalion fought costly but successful winter battles at Grimbiemont and Bure.

**Germany 1945.** All three Regular battalions, together with the 7th Manchesters and 107th (King's Own) and 144th Regiments RAC, were then involved in bitter fighting to clear the west bank of the Rhine, particularly in the Reichswald and Hochwald and at Weeze before crossing the river and advancing across the North German Plain to capture Hamburg and Bremen. In the course of this advance there were a number of stiff fights, notably at Ibbenburen and at the crossing of the Aller and other water obstacles. 5th King's also played an important, and unusual, part in the closing stages of the campaign, providing the main component of a T Force, which was tasked to secure 'special intelligence' targets and took the surrender of part of the German Navy. For their contributions to the liberation in North West Europe our predecessors were awarded 28 battle honours.

**Burma 1943-45.** Ten battalions of our predecessors fought in the gruelling Burma campaign. Early in 1943, following the Japanese invasion of Burma, 13th King's were selected to form part of General Wingate's original force of Chindits, inserted by air to operate in the jungle deep behind enemy lines; from March to July 1944 the 2nd King's Own, 1st King's and 4th Border assumed this role, fighting many fierce actions in arduous conditions beyond the River Chindwin and in the Naga Hills.

Early in 1944 British and Japanese offensives met in the North Arakan, and the 59th and 82nd, still in the same brigade, were in action there supported by an MMG company of the 96th. Further north the Japanese, intent on invading India, surrounded and attempted to capture Imphal and Kohima. The 9th Border, in 17th (Indian) Division, took part in the epic retreat up the Tiddim Road to Imphal and the stubborn defence of that place. The 55th also fought at Imphal, with the 20th (Indian) Division, while the 82nd, the 96th (supporting the 2nd Division with its MMGs), together with the 2nd Recce Regiment (formerly 6th Loyals), all took part in the relief of Kohima and clearance of Japanese positions in that area.

In the great convergent advance into central Burma the 55th was the first unit to cross the Irrawaddy at the Myinmu Bridgehead, and the 82nd made the longest assault river crossing of the war at the Nyaungu Bridgehead. The 9th Border then fought to cut off the Japanese retreat from Meiktila and Pyawbwe, while the main body of the 63rd supported the 2nd Division advance on Mandalay and the 59th and one company of the 96th came down the Irrawaddy from Northern Burma with the 36th Division, overcoming Japanese delaying positions in numerous unit-level and patrol actions for which they earned the battle honour Pinwe. Finally the Japanese retreat from Burma was cut off, most notably by 9th Border on the Rangoon Road and at Sittang.



With the recapture of Burma, preparations began for the invasion of Malaya and 1st Kings converted to become 15th (King's) Parachute Battalion while other battalions began amphibious training, but the Japanese surrendered before they were employed.

The Lancashire and Border battalions were awarded 22 battle honours for the Burma campaign, of which three are unique: Chindits 1943, earned by the King's, and Nyaungu Bridgehead and Letse by the South Lancshires.

### **The Post War Years 1945-2006**

**First Amalgamations 1948-50.** In the immediate aftermath of the war Regular battalions from Lancashire and the Borders (albeit full of National Servicemen) served in India, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Somaliland, the Sudan, Eritrea, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Italy, Trieste, Austria, Germany and Norway, in most of which they carried out internal security and/or occupation duties. Peace brought major reductions and in 1948-50 our seven County and City Regiments were reduced to one battalion each; however, active service continued in many parts of the world.

**Canal Zone 1951-54.** The East Lancshires, Border, South Lancshires and Loyals all carried out tours of internal security in the Canal Zone of Egypt.

**Malaya 1951-59.** The Manchesters served in Malaya in 1951-54 at the height of the Malayan Emergency, while in 1958-59 the Loyals took part in the final stages of that successful counter-insurgency campaign. The Manchesters lost an officer and 13 men in Malaya.

**Korean War 1952-53.** In 1952 1st King's arrived in Korea as part of the UN force defending South Korea from the Chinese communists and their North Korean allies. The war had stabilised in defensive lines but the Kings had a number of engagements including an action

on the notorious Hook feature for which they were awarded a battle honour. Three officers and 25 Kingsmen were killed in Korea. In 1953, after the ceasefire, 1st King's Own also served with the UN in Korea.

**The Cold War.** The post-war period was also marked by the start of the Cold War, and the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) transmuted from an occupying force to a vital part of the NATO defensive alliance against the Warsaw Pact. The King's Own, East Lancashires, Border and Manchesters all served in BAOR in the 1950s, at Osnabruck, Hubbelrath, Luneburg, Gottingen, Minden and Wuppertal, and the King's, Border, South Lancashires and Manchesters all had tours in the isolated city of Berlin.

Battalions also had overseas tours in Trieste, Hong Kong, Singapore and Kenya, from where in 1958 the Kings Own deployed to deal with unrest in Aden and Bahrein.

**The New Regiments 1958-59.** Further amalgamations took place in the late 1950s, this time combining pairs of the old regiments as follows:

The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) and The Border Regiment merged at Barnard Castle on 1 October 1959 to form:

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

The King's Regiment (Liverpool) and The Manchester Regiment merged at Brentwood on June 1958 to form:

The King's Regiment (Manchester and Liverpool) – the suffix was dropped in 1969.

The East Lancashire Regiment and The South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) merged in Hong Kong on 1 July 1958 to form:

The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers)

In its short life The Lancashire Regiment worthily upheld the traditions of its forebears, serving in Hong Kong, Germany, Swaziland, Cyprus, Aden and Malta.

**Southern Cameroons.** In 1960 the King's Own Royal Border saw active service when it deployed to provide security during a plebiscite in the West African Trust Territory of Southern Cameroons and to counter communist insurgency.

**Kuwait.** In 1961 the King's were airlifted from Kenya to the oil-rich Gulf state of Kuwait where their timely arrival effectively deterred a threatened Iraqi invasion.



**British Guiana.** In 1963-64 the King's Own Royal Border flew to British Guiana and deployed to assist the police in controlling inter-communal tension, and in 1965 the King's took over internal security duties in the colony.

**Swaziland.** In 1963 the Loyals were flown via Kenya to Swaziland, tasked to support the civil power in the event of disturbances. They were followed there in 1964-65 by the Lancashires, who were also on standby during elections in Basutoland (now Lesotho) and Bechuanaland (now Botswana).

**Aden.** In 1966 the security situation in Aden deteriorated and reinforcement companies of the Loyals were rotated from Malta, and the following year the Lancashires played a distinguished part in the difficult final months of the bitter anti-terrorist campaign, amassing more operational awards there than any other unit. Companies of 1st King's Own Royal Border, which was then based in Bahrein, were equally effective, but between them the two battalions lost an officer and six soldiers killed and over 50 wounded.

**Libya.** Also in 1967, the Loyals deployed to protect British bases in Libya during that year's Arab-Israeli war. Two years later, after Colonel Gadaffi's coup, the Lancashires were poised in Cyprus to intervene, but in the event were not required.

**British Honduras.** In 1967-68 the King's provided a company group in British Honduras, now Belize, to deter aggression by neighbouring Guatemala, and in 1971 they took part in an amphibious demonstration of British capability in the West Indies for the same purpose. In 1991 the King's Own Royal Border also served in Belize.

**The Queen's Lancashire Regiment** was formed at Dover on 25 March 1970 by merging The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) with the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) and only six weeks later the 1st Battalion was on active service in Northern Ireland.

**Northern Ireland.** Between 1970 and 2005 the three Regiments undertook between them 27 battalion-level operational tours in Northern Ireland, seven of them residential, in the course



of which 27 of our soldiers were killed by terrorist action and many hundreds were wounded. Among the numerous incidents a few stand out: the post-internment battles of 1971-73, when we fought gunmen and rioters of both persuasions on the squalid streets of West Belfast; the King's Own Royal Border and the King's participation in Operation Motorman in 1972; the 1990 'human bomb' at Victor 2 checkpoint which killed five Kingsmen and wounded many others; and the 1998 Omagh bomb when the swift and

humanitarian response of the Queen's Lancashires saved many lives. No regiments have made a greater effort to restore order and harmony to the troubled Province, and in recognition of their contribution in 1994 the King's Own Royal Border were awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

**Cyprus.** All three Regiments have been stationed in Cyprus, responsible for the internal security of the British Sovereign Base Areas (SBA), and sometimes serving with the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) on the Green Line between Greek and Turk. The King's Own Royal Border were based on the Island in 1968-70, 1987-88 and 2001-3; the King's were present in 1977-78 and 1996-98; the Queen's Lancashires were stationed there in 1978-80, 1983 and 2004-5.

**The Falkland Islands.** In 1982 the Queen's Lancashires, having helped train the units sent to recapture the Islands, were warned for deployment as a follow-up battalion, but in the event only one company deployed. 1st King's Own Royal Border provided the Falklands and South Georgia Infantry garrison in 1983, as did 1st King's in 1986. The latter also found Reinforcement Infantry Companies in 1992-93, and the Queen's Lancashires did likewise in 2004-5.

**Germany.** For some 40 years up to the collapse of the Warsaw Pact the main effort of the British Army was directed towards the North German Plain, where BAOR stood prepared as a vital part of the NATO Alliance to resist a Soviet Russian invasion of Western Europe. Between 1960 and the withdrawal of Russian troops our Regiments carried out a further eight tours of duty in Western Germany and four in Berlin. The King's Own Royal Border were stationed in Wuppertal 1962-64, Minden 1974-77, and Berlin 1981-83; the King's were based in Berlin 1962-64, Minden 1969-71, Osnabrück 1980-85, and Berlin (for the fourth time) in 1988-90; the Loyals were in Wuppertal 1962-64, and the Lancashires in Hilden; the Queen's Lancashires served in Osnabruck 1970-74, Paderborn 1984-90, and Berlin 1992-94. To set the seal on this period it is pleasing to recall that the King's were in Berlin when, in 1989, the Wall came down and following the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the Queen's Lancashires had the honour of being the last British battalion in Berlin. It was a bloodless victory, and in December 2005 the Queen's Lancashires started another tour in Osnabruck in a reunited Germany.

**The Balkans.** The Queen's Lancashires carried out peace-keeping operations in Bosnia in 1996, as did the King's Own Royal Border in 1997-98 and again in 2000, while on account of the Kosovo crisis a company of the King's Own Royal Border deployed in 1998-99 to Macedonia, where their professionalism was reflected by a second award of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

**Iraq.** The Regular battalions of the King's and the Queen's Lancashires, serving together in 19 Mechanised Brigade and both reinforced by TA soldiers of their Regiments, deployed to Basra June-November 2003 in the immediate aftermath of the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, bringing a measure of peace and stability to the city and surrounding area. The Queen's Lancashires lost an officer killed. The King's Own Royal Border Regiment began a tour in Southern Iraq in October 2005.

**Afghanistan.** In 2002, following Allied intervention to oust the Taliban from Afghanistan our Territorials produced a composite sub-unit for Force Protection in Kabul.

In addition to the operational tours outlined above, since 1960 battalions have been stationed overseas in Hong Kong, Bahrein, Kenya, Malta and Gibraltar.

**The Territorial Battalions.** Since World War II our Territorials have experienced at least as much turbulence and change as their Regular comrades, with radical cuts followed by expansion and then renewed mergers. In 1967 the old TA battalions, previously unaffected by the amalgamation of the Regulars, were reduced to cadres and a single battalion of The Lancastrian Volunteers spanned the Regimental areas from the Mersey to the Borders. This later expanded to two battalions, and in 1975 the companies were all restored to their parent Regiments to form the 4th King's Own Royal Border, 5th/8th King's and 4th Queen's Lancashires, the latter two having NATO roles in Germany. This happy state of affairs continued, with minor reduction in the early 90s, until 1999 when a major reduction in the TA Infantry resulted in the merger of the 4th Battalions of The King's Own Royal Border and The Queen's Lancashires to form The Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers, and of 5th/8th King's and 3rd Cheshires to form The King's and Cheshire Regiment, sub-units retaining their parent Regimental uniform and identity. Since the 1990s many of our TA officers and soldiers have served with the Regular Army in the Balkans, Iraq, Falklands, Kuwait and Afghanistan, often as individual reinforcements to the 1st Battalions of their Regiments.

**The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.** On 1 July 2006 The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, The King's Regiment, and The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, together with their

respective companies of The Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers and The King's and Cheshire Regiment, merged to form:

**The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border)**

By March 2007, the new Regiment, originally of three Regular battalions and the TA component, reorganised to form the Regular 1st and 2nd Battalions and a Volunteer 4th Battalion.

Today the honours, affiliations and great traditions of all our forebears are cherished and sustained by our Regular and Territorial Battalions.

**Nec Aspera Terrent**