

The British Army at the Start of the First World War

Since 1815 the balance of power in Europe had been maintained by a series of treaties. In 1888 Wilhelm II was crowned 'German Emperor and King of Prussia' and moved from a policy of maintaining the status quo to a more aggressive position. He did not renew a treaty with Russia, aligned Germany with the declining Austro-Hungarian Empire and started to build a Navy rivalling that of Britain. These actions greatly concerned Germany's neighbours, who quickly forged new treaties and alliances in the event of war. On 28th June 1914 Franz Ferdinand the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne was assassinated by the Bosnian-Serb nationalist group Young Bosnia who wanted pan-Serbian independence. Franz Joseph's the Austro-Hungarian Emperor (with the backing of Germany) responded aggressively, presenting Serbia with an intentionally unacceptable ultimatum, to provoke Serbia into war. Serbia agreed to 8 of the 10 terms and on the 28th July 1914 the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia, producing a cascade effect across Europe. Russia bound by treaty to Serbia declared war with Austro-Hungary, Germany declared war with Russia and France declared war with Germany. Germany's army crossed into neutral Belgium in order to reach Paris, forcing Britain to declare war with Germany (due to the Treaty of London (1839) whereby Britain agreed to defend Belgium in the event of invasion). By the 4th August 1914 Britain and much of Europe were pulled into a war which would last 1,566 days, cost 8,528,831 lives and 28,938,073 casualties or missing on both sides.

Devonshire Regiment



The Devonshire Regiment was officially formed in 1881 when the 11th (North Devon) Regiment of Foot and the Devon Militia were merged. However it can trace its history back nearly 200 years prior to this.

The 11th was first raised by Henry Somerset, The Duke of Beaufort in 1685 as 'The Duke of Beaufort's Regiment of Foot', from loyal men in the Devon, Somerset and Dorset area. The Regiment was raised during the Monmouth Rebellion to defend Bristol. However it was not required to fight as the 1st Duke of Monmouth (James Scott, the illegitimate son of Charles II) was drawn away from Bristol and defeated at the Battle of Sedgemoor two months after he had landed in England attempting to claim the throne. The Regiment saw its first service was in 1690 at the Battle of Boyne, where it fought under the personal command of King William III, when the deposed James II attempted to regain the throne he had lost in 1688.

After various engagements abroad as part of the Duke of Marlborough Campaigns, it was once again involved in a Jacobite Rebellion in 1715, when James Stuart, the son of the James II, attempted to retake the crown his father had lost and the Regiment fought at the battle of Dunblane and Glenshiel, where it defeated and captured a Spanish force of 400 who had invaded Scotland to support James Stuart. The Regiment served during the War of Austrian Succession, fighting at the battles of Dettingen, Fontenoy and Rocoux and then in

the Seven Years War, fighting at the battles of Warburg, Kloster Kampen, Villinghausen and Wilhelmstahl and the inconclusive Iberian campaign.

As was the tradition at the time The Regiment was named after its various Colonels until 1750 when the naming convention was simplified and each Regiment was assigned a ranked number, therefore becoming the '11th Regiment of Foot'. In 1782 county titles were added to those Regiments without Royal titles, in order to increase recruitment from that area and the Regiment became the 11th (North Devonshire) Regiment of Foot.

During the French Revolutionary Wars the 11th acted as Marines serving as detachments of the Royal Navy at the Battle of Cape St Vincent (1797). From 1800-06 it was stationed in the West Indies, but returned to Europe to fight in the Peninsular War, fighting in at the Battle of Salamanca, where it earned the nickname, 'The Bloody Eleventh', where the Regiment stopped the French advance despite heavy losses.

In 1881 as part of the Childers Reforms the 11th (North Devon Regiment), and the Devon Militia were merged and it became the Devonshire Regiment. The Regiment went on to serve in the Afghanistan Campaign (1878-79), in Burma (1890-92), the Tirah Expedition (1897), the Boer War and two World Wars. In 1958, the Regiment was further amalgamated with the Dorset Regiment to form The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and in 2007 it was merged with The Light Infantry, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets to form The Rifles.

The Regiment raised a total of 25 battalions and fought on the Western Front, in Italy at the battles of the Piave and Vittorio Veneto, in Macedonia, Egypt, Palestine, and Mesopotamia. It was awarded 65 battle honours and two Victoria Crosses during the course of the war.

1st Battalion

04.08.1914 Stationed in Jersey at the outbreak of war.

21.08.1914 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre.

14.09.1914 Joined the 8th Brigade of the 3rd Division.

30.09.1914 Transferred to the 14th Brigade of the 5th Division and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

During 1914

The Battle of La Bassee, The Battle of Messines, The First Battle of Ypres.

Dec 1914 This Battalion took part in the Christmas Truce of 1914.

During 1915

The Second Battle of Ypres and the Capture of Hill 60.

12.01.1916 Transferred to the 95th Brigade of the 5th Division.

During 1916

The Attacks on High Wood, The Battle of Guillemont, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of Morval, The Battle of Le Transloy.

During 1917

The Battle of Vimy, The Attack on La Coulotte, The Third Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle, The Second Battle of Passchendaele.

27.11.1917 Moved to Italy to strengthen the Italian resistance.

07.04.1918 Returned to France and once again engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

During 1918

The Battle of Hazebrouck, The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Bapaume, The Battle of Drocourt-Queant, The Battle of the Epehy, The Battle of the Canal du Nord, The pursuit to the Selle, The Battle of the Selle.

11.11.1918 Ended the war in France, Le Quesnoy.

1/4th Battalion Territorial Force.

04.08.1914 Stationed at Exeter as part of the Devon & Cornwall Brigade of the Wessex Division.

05.08.1914 Moved to Plymouth and then to Salisbury Plain.

09.10.1914 Embarked for India from Southampton arriving at Karachi 11.11.1914.

02.03.1916 Moved to Basra and joined the 41st Indian Brigade.

05.05.1916 Transferred to the 37th Indian Brigade of the 14th Indian Division which engaged in various actions as part of The Mesopotamian campaign including;
Advance to the Hai and capture of the Khudaira Bend, Capture of the Hai Salient, Capture of Sannaiyat, Second Battle of Kut, Passage of the Tigris, Fall of Baghdad (1917), Passage of the 'Adhaim, Action of the Shatt al Adhaim, Second action of Jabal Hamrin, Third action of Jabal Hamrin.

Feb 1917 Moved to Amara to defend the Lines of Communication of the Tigris Defences.

31.10.1918 Ended the war in Mesopotamia, Baquaba N.E. of Baghdad.

2nd Battalion

04.08.1914 Stationed at Cairo at the outbreak of war.

13.09.1914 Embarked for the UK arriving at Southampton and then moved to Winchester to join the 23rd Brigade of the 8th Division.

06.11.1914 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

Dec 1914 This Battalion took part in the Christmas Truce of 1914.

During 1915

The Battle of Neuve Chapelle, The Battle of Aubers, The action of Bois Grenier.

During 1916

The Battle of Albert.

During 1917

The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The Battle of Pilkem, The Battle of Langemarck.

During 1918

The Battle of St Quentin, The actions at the Somme crossings, The Battle of Rosieres, The actions of Villers-Bretonneux, The Battle of the Aisne 1918, The Battle of the Scarpe, The Final Advance in Artois.

11.11.1918 Ended the war in Belgium, Terte west of Mons.

3/4th 3/5th and 3/6th Battalion Territorial Force.

25.03.1915 Formed at Exeter, Plymouth and Barnstaple.

Autumn 1915 Moved to Bournemouth.

08.04.1916 Became the 4th 5th and 6th Reserve battalions.

01.09.1916 The 4th absorbed the 5th and 6th battalions and moved to Winchester as part of the Wessex Reserve Brigade.

Oct 1916 Moved to Bournemouth.

Mar 1917 Moved to Sutton Veny and then Larkhill.

April 1918 Moved to Belfast, Ireland and then Londonderry and Clonmany, Donegal

8th (Service) Battalion

19.08.1914 Formed at Exeter as part of the First New Army (K1) and then moved to Rushmoor Camp, Aldershot as part of the 14th Division.

Nov 1914 Moved to Barossa Barracks, Aldershot and then Farnham, and back to Aldershot.

26.07.1915 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and transferred to the 20th Brigade of the 7th Division which engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

The Battle of Loos 1915

During 1916

The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Bazentin and the attacks on High Wood, The Battle of Delville Wood, The Battle of Guillemont, Operations on the Ancre.

During 1917

The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The Arras offensive, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle, The Second Battle of Passchendaele.

Nov 1917 Moved to Italy arriving at Legnago to strengthen the Italian resistance against the Austria-Hungary forces and engaged in various actions including;
The crossing the Piave and the Battle of Vittoria Veneto.

04.11.1918 Ended the war in Italy, Cisterna east of Gradisca.

9th (Service) Battalion

15.09.1914 Formed at Exeter as part of the Second New Army (K2) and then moved to Rushmoor Camp, Aldershot as part of the 20th Division.

Oct 1914 Moved to Bisley and the Tournai Barracks, Aldershot and then Halemere and then Bordon leaving the 20th Division.

28.07.1915 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and transferred to the 20th Brigade of the 7th Division which engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

The Battle of Loos 1915

During 1916

The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Bazentin and the attacks on High Wood, The Battle of Delville Wood, The Battle of Guillemont, Operations on the Ancre.

During 1917

The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The Arras offensive, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle, The Second Battle of Passchendaele.

Nov 1917 Moved to Italy arriving at Legnago to strengthen the Italian resistance against the Austria-Hungary forces and engaged in various actions including;
The crossing the Piave and the Battle of Vittoria Veneto.

Sept 1918 Moved to France leaving the 7th Division arriving at St. Riquier and joined the 7th Brigade of the 25th Division and once again fought on the Western front including; The Battle of Beaufort, The Battle of Cambrai 1918, The Pursuit to and Battle of the Selle, The Battle of the Sambre.

11.11.1918 Ended the war in France, Landregies.

Wiltshire Regiment



The Regiment was officially formed in 1881 when the 62nd and the 99th Regiments of Foot were amalgamated as part of the Childers reforms but the Regiment can trace its history back 124 years prior to this date.

The 62nd was formed in 1758 when the 2nd Battalion of the 4th Regiment of Foot became independent. The Regiment was its first action as marines during the Seven Years War

fighting at the Siege and Capture of the Louisburg Fortress and Quebec.

The Regiment garrisoned Castle Carrickfergus in Ireland in 1760 and four under-strength companies withstood three assaults by a French force of 600 men, having to melt down their own buttons to make bullets and used rocks to repel the third assault. The Regiment had to surrender the castle but the French force was destroyed by the Royal Navy and the men of the Regiment were hailed to have 'behaved like Lyons' and the officers were presented with silver cups. In 1763 the Regiment was deployed to the West Indies and remained there until 1776 and the outbreak of America War of Independence. The Regiment then moved to Canada and fought during the Battle of Trois-Rivières and Valcour Island. After the colonial forces were successfully expelled from Canada the 62nd joined Major-General John Burgoyne's force at the Battle of Saratoga and were surrendered with the entire army following the battle, remaining imprisoned until 1781 when it returned to England.

In 1782 all British Regiments without Royal titles were awarded county titles in order to aid recruitment from that area, therefore the Regiment became the 62nd (Wiltshire) Regiment of Foot and was once again deployed to the West Indies. It spent the majority of the French Revolutionary Wars fighting the French on Haiti and suffered heavily from yellow fever, fit men were transferred to other units in 1797 and the cadre returned to England. During the Peninsular War the Regiment fought at the Battles of Nive and Peninsula. The Regiment returned to Canada and remained garrisoned in Nova Scotia until 1823 followed by 7 years of garrison duties in Ireland.

In 1830 the 62nd was deployed to India and after several quiet years garrisoned in Bangalore the Regiment was then involved in putting down the Bangalore Mutiny and then moved to Ferozepore to join the Honorable East India Company forces there as tensions rose between the Sikhs and the British. The Regiment fought at the Battle of Ferozeshah after which no officers remained to take charge of the Regiment so command fell to sergeants and non-commissioned officers. The diminished 62nd went on to fight at the Battle of Sobaron. The Regiment remained in India until 1847 and then garrisoned in Ireland until the Crimean War where it fought during the Battle of Sevastopol.

The 99th was first raised 1824 by Major-General John Hall and gained its county title 10 years later to become 99th (Lanarkshire) Regiment of Foot. From 1842 the Regiment transported convicts to Tasmania and then rotated through various colonial posts in the region until it was ordered to Sydney. Here it gained a very unsavory reputation and the 11th Regiment of Foot was principally employed to keep the men of the 99th under control.

The 99th went on to serve during the New Zealand land Wars fighting during the Hutt Valley Campaign and the Battle of Battle Hill. In 1846 the Regiment returned to Australia but detachments were sent to reinforce British forces in New Zealand for the next few years. The 99th finally returned to England in 1856 and garrisoned in Ireland and Aldershot. The Regiment was deployed to India in 1859 and then to China to serve during the Second Opium War fighting in the Third Battle of Taku Forts and the Battle of Palikao. The Regiment also took part in the sack of Peking. Among the loot carried off was a Pekinese dog named Lootie which belonged to the Chinese Empress which was presented to Queen Victoria. The Regiment was then returned to Hong Kong and remained there until 1865.

From 1865 to 1868 the 99th served in South Africa and were inspected by the Duke of Edinburgh who was so impressed by the Regiment that it was granted the title 99th (Duke of Edinburgh's) Regiment in 1874 and went on to serve during the Anglo-Zulu War fighting at the Battle of Gingindlovu.

In 1881 these two Regiments were merged into the The Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) as part of the Childers Reforms. The Childers Reforms restructured the British

army infantry Regiments into a network of multi-battalion Regiments each having two regular and two militia battalions as standard. The newly formed Regiment went on to serve during the Second Boer War and two World Wars.

In 1921, the Regiment was re-titled as The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's). In 1959 The Wiltshires were amalgamated with The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) to form The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire). In 1994 further amalgamation followed with the Gloucestershire Regiment to form the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment and in 2007 it joined the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, the Light Infantry and the Royal Green Jackets to form The Rifles.

The Regiment raised 10 Battalions, gained 60 Battle Honours and 1 Victoria Cross losing 5,200 men during the course of the war.

2nd Battalion

04.08.1914 Stationed at Gibraltar.

31.08.1914 Embarked for England arriving at Southampton and then moved to Lyndhurst to join the 21st Brigade of the 7th Division.

07.10.1914 Mobilised for war and landed at Zeebrugge and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

1914

The First Battle of Ypres.

19.12.1915 Transferred to the 21st Brigade of the 30th Division;

1916

The Battle of Albert, The Battle of the Transloy Ridges.

1917

The pursuit of the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Second Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Pilkem Ridge.

1918

The Battle of St Quentin, The actions at the Somme Crossings, The Battle of Rosieres, The Battle of Kemmel Ridge, The Second Battle of Kemmel Ridge, The Battle of the Scherpenberg, The capture of Neuve Eglise, The capture of Wulverghem, The Battle of Ypres.

13.05.1918 Transferred to the 58th Brigade of the 19th Division;

The Battle of the Aisne, The Battle of the Selle, The Battle of the Sambre and the passage of the Grand Honelle.

11.11.1918 Ended the war at Eth N.W. of Bavai, France.

6th (Service) Battalion

Sept 1914 Formed at Devizes as part of the Second New Army (K2) and then moved to Salisbury Plain to join the 19th Division.

Dec 1914 Moved to Basingstoke and joined the 58th Brigade of the 19th Division.

Mar 1915 Moved to Perham Down.

July 1915 Mobilised for war and landed in France and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

1915

The Action of Pietre; diversionary action during the Battle of Loos

1916

The Battle of Albert, The attacks on High Wood, The Battle of Pozieres Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre Heights, The Battle of the Ancre.

1917

The Battle of Messines, The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle, First Battle of Passchendaele, The Second Battle of Passchendaele.

20.09.1917 Amalgamated with 14 Officers and 232 men of the Wiltshire Yeomanry (now

dismounted) to become the 6th (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) Battalion.
1918

The Battle of St Quentin, The Battle of Bapaume, The Battle of Messines, The Battle of Bailleul, The First Battle of Kemmel Ridge, The Battle of the Aisne, The Battle of the Selle, The Battle of the Sambre and the passage of the Grand Honelle.

13.05.1918 Reduced to training cadre with the surplus transferred to the 2nd Battalion of the 30th Division

16.06.1918 Returned to England as part of the 42nd Brigade of the 14th Division from Boulogne.

18.06.1918 Moved to Brookwood and reconstituted with the 9th Dorset's

04.07.1918 Returned to France landing at Boulogne and once again engaged in various action on the Western Front;

The Battle of Ypres 1918 and the final advance in Flanders.

11.11.1918 Ended the war at Dottignies N.E. of Roubaix, Belgium.

The Dorset Regiment



The Dorset Regiment was an infantry regiment of the British Army. Until 1951 it was formally called The Dorsetshire Regiment, although usually known as "the Dorsets". It was formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 39th Regiment of Foot - the 39th (Dorsetshire) Regiment and the 54th Regiment of Foot - the 54th (West Norfolk) Regiment.

6th (Service) Battalion Formed at Dorchester on 6 September 1914 as part of K2. Moved to Wareham and initially attached as Army Troops to 17th (Northern) Division. March 1915 : transferred to 50th Brigade in same Division. Moved to Romsey in May 1915. Landed at Boulogne on 14 July 1915.

The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion

04.08.1914 Stationed in Seathforth, Liverpool at the outbreak of war, then moved to Edinburgh.

06.03.1915 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and transferred to Sirhind Brigade of the Lahore Division based at Robecq. They were engaged on the Western Front and involved in various actions;

The Battle of Neuve Chapelle, The Second Battle of Ypres and The Battle of Loos.

10.11.1915 Transferred to the 137th Brigade of the 46th Division.

03.12.1915 Transferred to the 56th and 58th Brigades of the 19th Division.

27.02.1916 Transferred to the 98th Brigades of the 33rd Division. They were engaged on the Western Front and involved in various actions;

During 1916

The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Bazentin, The attacks on High Wood, The capture of Boritska and Dewdrop Trenches.

During 1917

The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Second Battle of the Scarpe, The actions on the Hindenburg Line, Operations on the Flanders coast, The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, The Battle of Polygon Wood.

During 1918

The Battle of Messines, The Battle of Hazebrouck, The Battle of Bailleul, The defence of Neuve Eglise, The First Battle for Kemmel Ridge, The fighting for and recapture of Ridge Wood, The Battle of the Epehy, The Battle of the St Quentin Canal, The Battle of the Bearevoir Line, The Battle of Cambrai, The pursuit to the Selle, The Battle of the Selle.

11.11.1918 Ended the war in France, Sassegnies, N.W. of Avesnes.

King's Royal Rifle Corps



Since 1815 the balance of power in Europe had been maintained by a series of treaties. In 1888 Wilhelm II was crowned 'German Emperor and King of Prussia' and moved from a policy of maintaining the status quo to a more aggressive position. He did not renew a treaty with Russia, aligned Germany with the declining Austro-Hungarian Empire and started to build a Navy rivalling that of Britain. These actions greatly concerned Germany's neighbours, who quickly forged new treaties and alliances in the event of war. On 28th June 1914 Franz Ferdinand the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne was assassinated by the Bosnian-Serb nationalist group Young Bosnia who wanted pan-Serbian independence. Franz Joseph's the Austro-Hungarian Emperor (with the backing of Germany) responded aggressively, presenting Serbia with an intentionally unacceptable ultimatum, to provoke Serbia into war. Serbia agreed to 8 of the 10 terms and on the 28th July 1914 the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia, producing a cascade effect across Europe. Russia bound by treaty to Serbia declared war with Austro-Hungary, Germany declared war with Russia and France declared war with Germany. Germany's army crossed into neutral Belgium in order to reach Paris, forcing Britain to declare war with Germany (due to the Treaty of London (1839) whereby Britain agreed to defend Belgium in the event of invasion). By the 4th August 1914 Britain and much of Europe were pulled into a war which would last 1,566 days, cost 8,528,831 lives and 28,938,073 casualties or missing on both sides.

The Regiment raised 22 Battalions in total during the course of World War I and saw action on the Western Front, Macedonia and Italy, winning 60 battle honours including 7 Victoria Crosses. The regiment lost 12,840 men who were killed during the course of the war.

12th (Service) Battalion

21.09.1914 Formed in Winchester as part of the Second New Army (K2) then moved to Cowshot, Bisley to join the 60th Brigade of the 20th Division.
 Nov 1914 Moved to Blackdown and then to Larkhill, Salisbury Plain.
 22.07.1915 Mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne and ended in various actions on the Western Front including;
 During 1916
 The Battle of Mount Sorrel, The Battle of Delville Wood, The Battle of Guillemont, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of Morval, The Battle of Le Transloy.
 During 1917
 The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The Battle of Langemarck, The Battle of the Menin Road Ridge, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Cambrai Operations.
 During 1918
 The Battle of St Quentin, The actions at the Somme crossings, The Battle of Rosieres, The Battle of the Selle, The Battle of Valenciennes, The Battle of the Sambre.
 11.11.1918 Ended the war in France, Caudry

Duke Of Cornwall's Light Infantry



The Regiment was officially formed in 1881 when the 32nd and 46th Regiments of Foot were amalgamated as part of the Childers Reforms; however it can trace its history back over 180 years prior to this date.

The 32nd was first formed in 1702 during the War of Spanish Succession (1701–1714) fighting at the siege and capture of Gibraltar (1705) and the Battles of Roliça and Vimiero. In 1782 all British Regiments without Royal titles were awarded county titles in order to aid recruitment from that region therefore the 32nd became the 32nd (Cornwall) Regiment of Foot. It was part of the unsuccessful Walcheren Expedition (1809) during the War of the Fifth Coalition (1809) where the Regiment suffered greatly from Walcheren fever (thought to be a combination of malaria and typhus). The Regiment went on to serve during the Peninsular War (1808-1814) fighting the French at the Battle of Salamanca and all major conflicts into France until the Battle of Quatre Bras which halted Napoleon's advance. The Regiment also fought during the Battle of Waterloo (1815) and suffered the greatest loss of all the British Regiments, losing 516 men in two days.

In 1833 Colonel John Eardley Inglis joined the Regiment and would serve his entire military career in the 32nd becoming famous for his command at the siege of Lucknow. In 1837 the Regiment served during the Lower Canada Rebellion (1837-1838), when armed rebels tried to establish the independent republics of Quebec and Ontario, fighting at the actions of St. Denis and St. Eustache. The 32nd was deployed to India and served during the Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848–1849) fighting at the Siege of Multan and the Battle of Gujrat. The Regiment also defended Lucknow during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Brigadier Inglis was in

charge of the Lucknow Residency during the siege and maintained a successful defence for 87 days against an overwhelming force. He was promoted to major-general and awarded Knight Commander of the Bath. In 1860 after further service in India he was given command of the British troops in the Ionian Islands. The Regiment was refitted and trained as Light Infantry for its service at Lucknow and re-titled as 32nd (The Cornwall) Regiment of Foot (Light Infantry).

The 46th was first raised in 1741 initially as the 57th Regiment of Foot but became the 46th seven years later. The Regiment saw its first action in Canada during the Seven Years War (1754–1763) fighting at the Assault on Fort Ticonderoga, the Assault and Capture of Fort Niagara, the Assault and Capture of Fort Lévis and the Capture of Montreal. From 1762 the Regiment moved to the Caribbean and took part in the capture of Martinique and Havana. The Regiment remained on garrison duties in Ireland for 8 years from 1767. In 1776 the Regiment was deployed to America during the American War of Independence (1775–1783) and fought at the Capture of Long Island, New York, Fort Washington, the Battle of Brandywine Creek, Action of Paoli's Tavern, the Capture of Philadelphia, the Battle of Germantown, the Action of Monmouth Court-House, the Assault and Capture of Bedford, the Assault and Capture of Martha's Vineyard. In 1778 the Regiment moved to the Caribbean and fought during the Invasion and Capture of St. Lucia, the Defence of La Vigie, and the Capture of St. Eustatius. In 1782 the 46th became associated with South Devonshire and became the 46th (South Devonshire) Regiment of Foot.

In 1814 the Regiment escorted convicts to New South Wales and remained in Australia until 1817, serving in Sydney, Newcastle, Parramatta and Van Diemens Land before deployment to Madras, India. The Regiment also served during the Crimean War, (1854-1856) fighting at the Battle of the Alma, the Battle of Balaklava, the Battle of Inkermann, the Siege of Sebastopol, the Assault on the Quarries, the First Assault on the Redan, and the Final Assault on the Redan.

In 1881 as part of the Childers Reforms, which restructured the British army into a network of multi-battalion Regiments, the 46th (South Devonshires) Regiment of Foot and the 32nd (Cornwall) Regiment of Foot were merged to form The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. The newly formed Regiment went on to serve during the Second Boer War (1899-1902) fighting at Paardeburg and Bloemfontein and two World Wars.

In 1959, the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry was merged with the Somerset Light Infantry to form the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry. In 1968, the Regiment was amalgamated with The Durham Light Infantry, The Shropshire Light Infantry and The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry to form The Light Infantry Brigade. In 2007 another round of amalgamations meant the Light Infantry was merged with The Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets to form The Rifles.

The Regiment raised 16 Battalions, it was awarded 57 Battle Honours and 1 Victoria Cross losing 4,510 men during the course of the war.

1/5th Battalion Territorial Force

04.08.1914 Stationed at Bodmin as part of the Devon & Cornwall Brigade of the Wessex Division and then moved to Falmouth and then Salisbury Plain.

(Foreign service volunteers transferred to the 1/4th battalion, the 1/5th was now under strength and replaced in the Division by the 1/6th and moved to Newquay).

1915 Moved to Falmouth.

April 1916 Moved to Perham Down and then Tidworth and became a Pioneer Battalion of the 61st Division.

22.05.1916 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and engaged in various actions on the

Western Front including;
1916

The Attack at Fromelles (unsuccessful diversionary tactic during the Battle of the Somme).
1917

The Operations on the Ancre, The German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The Battle of Langemark, The German counter attacks.

1918

The Battle of St Quentin, The Actions at the Somme Crossings, The Battle of Estaires, The Battle of Hazebrouck, The Battle of Bethune, The Battle of the Selle, The Battle of Valenciennes.

11.11.1918 Ended the war at Parquiaux N.W. of Le Quesnoy, France.

The Middlesex Regiment



The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) was officially formed in 1881 when the 57th West Middlesex and the 77th East Middlesex Regiments of Foot were amalgamated as part of the Childers Reforms. However, the Regiment can trace its history back 126 years prior to this date.

The 57th was first raised in 1755 and initially numbered the 59th but rose to the 57th Regiment of Foot in 1756 when the 50th and 51st were disbanded. The Regiment served during the American Revolutionary War (1775-83) until its surrendered at Yorktown. It came by its nickname the "Die-hards" during the Peninsular War. On 16th May 1811 at the Battle of Albuera, Commander Colonel Inglis had his horse shot from under him and was severely wounded. As he lay on the ground, he called to his soldiers to: "Die Hard, 57th Die Hard!" In 1824 the Regiment embarked at Chatham to convey convicts to Australia and remained there until 1831 when it moved to India for 15 years. It then went on to serve during the Crimean War (1854-56) and the Indian Mutiny (1857-59), then moving to New Zealand in 1860 for 7 years. After a period of 6 years on garrison duty in Ireland and Britain it moved to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and then took part in the Zulu War of 1879. In 1782 all British Regiments without Royal titles were awarded county titles in order to aid recruitment from those areas, the 57th was given the West Middlesex association to become 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot.

The 77th was first formed in 1787 as the '77th (Hindoostan) Regiment of Foot' by the East India Company during heighten tensions between France and Britain in India. However the tensions had passed once the Regiment was raised and the Company refused to pay for it, so it passed to the British Army. The Regiment was deployed to India in 1788 and remained there for 19 years serving in the Mahratta and Mysore Wars fighting at the storming of Seringapatam 1799. In 1807 the county designation of East Middlesex was awarded, becoming the 77th (East Middlesex) Regiment of Foot. To commemorate its Indian service

the Regiment was granted permission to bear the motto and plumes of the Prince of Wales and returned to Europe to serve in the unsuccessful Walcheren Campaign and the Peninsular War including the Siege of Ciudad Rodrigo and the First Siege of Badajoz and the Battle of Bayonne. The Regiment had another period of garrison duties in various areas including Jamaica, Malta Nova Scotia and England until 1854 when it went to serve in the Crimean War fighting at the Battles of Sevastopol, Balaklava, The Alma, and Inkerman. In 1858 the Regiment was deployed to India to suppress the Indian Rebellion and were awarded the title of 'Duke of Cambridge's Own' in 1876 becoming the '77th (East Middlesex) Regiment of Foot (The Duke of Cambridge's Own)'.

In 1881 the 57th and 77th Regiments were amalgamated to form The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) as part of the Childers Reforms. The Childers Reform restructured the British army infantry regiments into a network of multi-battalion regiments each having two regular and two militia battalions. The newly formed Regiment went on to serve in the Boer War (1899-1902) and two World Wars.

In 1921, the Regimental title was reversed to The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own). In 1966 it was further merged with the Royal Surrey Regiment, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and the Sussex Regiment to form the Queen's Regiment. In 1991 The Queen's Regiment was amalgamated with the Royal Hampshire Regiment to form the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and is the most senior English line infantry Regiment.

In the First World War, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) formed a total of 49 Battalions this was mainly due to a surplus of volunteers seeking to enlist. The Regiment received a total of 81 battle honours, 5 Victoria Crosses and lost approximately 12,270 casualties during the course of the war. Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment during WW1

1/7th Battalion Territorial Force

04.08.1914 Stationed at Hornsea, Middlesex Brigade, Home Counties Division.

5-9.8.1914 Mobilised and moved to Isle of Grain, and then Sittingbourne, Kent.

04.09.1914 Mobilised and moved to Gibraltar, Spain arriving 17.09.1914.

13.02.1915 Returned to England, arrived at Avonmouth then moved to Barnet.

13.03.1915 Mobilised for war and landed at Le Havre.

15.03.1915 Transferred to 23rd Brigade 8th Division. Where they were involved in the following action;

The Battle of Neuve Chapelle, The Battle of Aubers, The action of Bois Grenier (a diversionary attack coinciding with the Battle of Loos).

23.06-02.08.1915 Amalgamated with 1/8th Battalion.

08.02.1916 Transferred to 167th Brigade in 56th Division.

During 1916;

01.07.1916: The diversionary attack at Gommecourt

09.09.1916: The Battle of Ginchy

15-22.09.1916: The Battle of Flers-Courcelette

25-27.09.1916: The Battle of Morval

11.09-09.10.1916: The Battle of the Transloy Ridges

During 1917;

14.03-05.04.1917: The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line

09-14.04.1917: The First Battle of the Scarpe

03-04.05.1917: The Third Battle of the Scarpe

16-17.08.1917: The Battle of Langemarck

21.11.1917: The capture of Tadpole Copse

23-28.11.1917: The capture of Bournon Wood

30.11-02.12.1917: The German counter attacks

During 1918

28.03.1918: The First Battle of Arras

23.08.1918: The Battle of Albert
 26-30.08.1918: The Battle of the Scarpe
 27.09-01.10.1918: The Battle of the Canal du Nord
 08-09.10.1918: The Battle of the Cambrai
 09-12.10.1918: The pursuit to the Selle
 04.11.1918: The Battle of the Sambre
 05-07.11.1918: The passage of the Grand Honelle
 11.11.1918 Ended war in France, Le Dessous, Blaregnies, N.E. of Bavai. The Division was employed to repair road and railway in the Harveng area, therefore the final cadres did not leave for home until 18.05.1919.

The Worcestershire Regiment



The Regiment was officially formed in 1881 when the 29th and 36th Regiments of Foot were merged as part of the Childers Reforms, but it can trace its history back a further 200 years.

The 29th was formed in 1694 by Colonel Thomas Farrington, an officer of the Coldstream Guards in London. As was the tradition at the time the Regiment was named after it Colonel as Farrington's Regiment of Foot. This naming convention remained in place until 1751 when a number was assigned according to the Regiments precedence, becoming the 29th Regiment of Foot. The Regiment served during the War of Spanish Succession (1701–1714) fighting at the Battle of Ramillies and the siege of Ostend.

In 1745 the Regiment were deployed to Nova Scotia to capture the French Fortress of Louisburg during the War of Austrian Succession (1740–48). The Regiment gained the nickname the Ever Sworded during this time. The unarmed men of the Regiment were surprised and massacred by a Canadian force with a contingent of Mi'kmaq Warriors and led to the order that all soldiers must always be armed even when off duty. In 1770 the Regiment was part of the Boston Massacre where 5 colonists were killed when the 29th fired into a rioting crowd. Eight men were tried for murder, two were found guilty of manslaughter and branded on the hand as punishment the other 6 were found not guilty and the Regiment was moved to Florida. The 29th returned to the region in 1776 during the American War of Independence (1775–1783) to relieve the siege of Quebec and also fought at the Battles of Trois-Rivières, Valcour Island and Hubbardston until its defeat and surrendered with the rest of General John Burgoyne's Army at Saratoga in 1777.

In 1782 all British Regiments without Royal titles were awarded county titles in order to aid recruitment from that area therefore the 29th became the 29th (the Worcestershire) Regiment of Foot. The Regiment went on to serve in India from 1845 fighting during the First and Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848-1849) and the Indian Rebellion of 1857, defending the Grand Trunk Road.

In 1881 the 29th (Worcestershire) Regiment of Foot and the 36th (Herefordshire) Regiment of

Foot were amalgamated to form The Worcestershire Regiment as part of the Childers Reforms. The Childers Reforms restructured the British army infantry Regiments into a network of multi-battalion Regiments each having two regular and two militia battalions.

The 36th was raised in 1701 by William Caulfield, 2nd Viscount Charlemont during the War of Spanish Succession (1701–1714). After brief spells raiding the Spanish coast and garrison duties in West Indies, the 36th took part in the Siege of Barcelona and fighting in action at Valencia and Murcia until it was nearly destroyed at the Battle of Almansa. After the Regiment was rebuilt it took part in the Battle of Sheriffmuir during the Jacobite Uprising of 1715. This was when James Stuart the son of the deposed James II attempted to retake the crown his father had lost in 1688 to King William III. The Regiment returned to the West Indies in 1740 during heighten tensions with Spain during the War of Jenkins' Ear (1739–1748), taking part in the unsuccessful two-month long assault on Cartagena. In 1745 the Regiment was once again in action on the home front against Jacobite forces, when Bonnie Prince Charlie (the grandson of James II) landed in Scotland, again attempting to regain the lost crown to the Stuart family. The 36th fought at the Battle of Falkirk and the Battle of Culloden which ended the uprising. In 1764 the Regiment returned to the West Indies on the island of Jamaica and remained there until 1773.

In 1782 it was awarded the county titles of Herefordshire becoming 36th (Herefordshire) Regiment of Foot and was then deployed to India where it took part in the Second and Third Anglo-Mysore Wars (1789–92) and captured Pondicherry from the French during the French Revolutionary War (1792–1802), remaining in India until 1798. The 36th took little part in the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815) mainly raiding the French coast but was in action during the Peninsular War (1808-1815) fighting at the Battles of Roliça, Vimeiro and Corunna before embarking in the unsuccessful Walcheren Campaign losing over 200 men to malaria. Once the Regiment was returned to full strength it returned to the Iberian Peninsula and fought at the Battles of Salamanca, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthez and Toulouse.

After 1881 the newly formed Worcestershire Regiment was involved in various conflicts and territories including; The Boer War (1900-1902), West Indies (1903-1905), India (1908-1913), China (1933-1934), and Burma (1944 – 1945), as well as both World Wars. In 1970 the Worcestershire Regiment was merged with the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) to form the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. In 2004 the Regiment was further amalgamated with the Cheshire and the Staffordshire Regiments to form the Mercian Regiment.

The Regiment raised 21 Battalions and was awarded 72 Battle Honours and 8 Victoria Crosses losing 9,460 men during the course of the war.

1st Battalion

04.08.1914 Stationed in Cairo, Egypt at the outbreak of war.

30.09-16.10.1914 Returned to England from Alexandria and arrived at Liverpool to join the 24th Brigade of the 8th Division and moved to Hursley Park, Winchester.

06.11.1914 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre where the Division reinforced the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and was engaged in action on the Western Front. Initially at Neuve Chapelle trenches by December the Battalion lost half its strength due to frostbite as much as combat casualties.

18.10.1915 the 24th Brigade transferred to the 23rd Division.

During 1915

The Battle of Aubers ridge

During 1916

Moved to relieve the French 17th Division in the Carency sector and the attack on Contalmaison.

15.07.1916 the 24th Brigade transferred back to the 8th Division, the Battalion took over

trenches at Cuinchy and then moved back to the front at Somme.

During 1917

The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The Battle of Pilkem, The Battle of Langemarck, the Third Battle of Ypres

During 1918

Counter attack at Pargny, the Battle of Rosieres, Operations in Picardy, the action of Villers Bretonneux, the Battle of the Aisne.

11.11.1918 Ended the war in Belgium, Harchies east of Conde.