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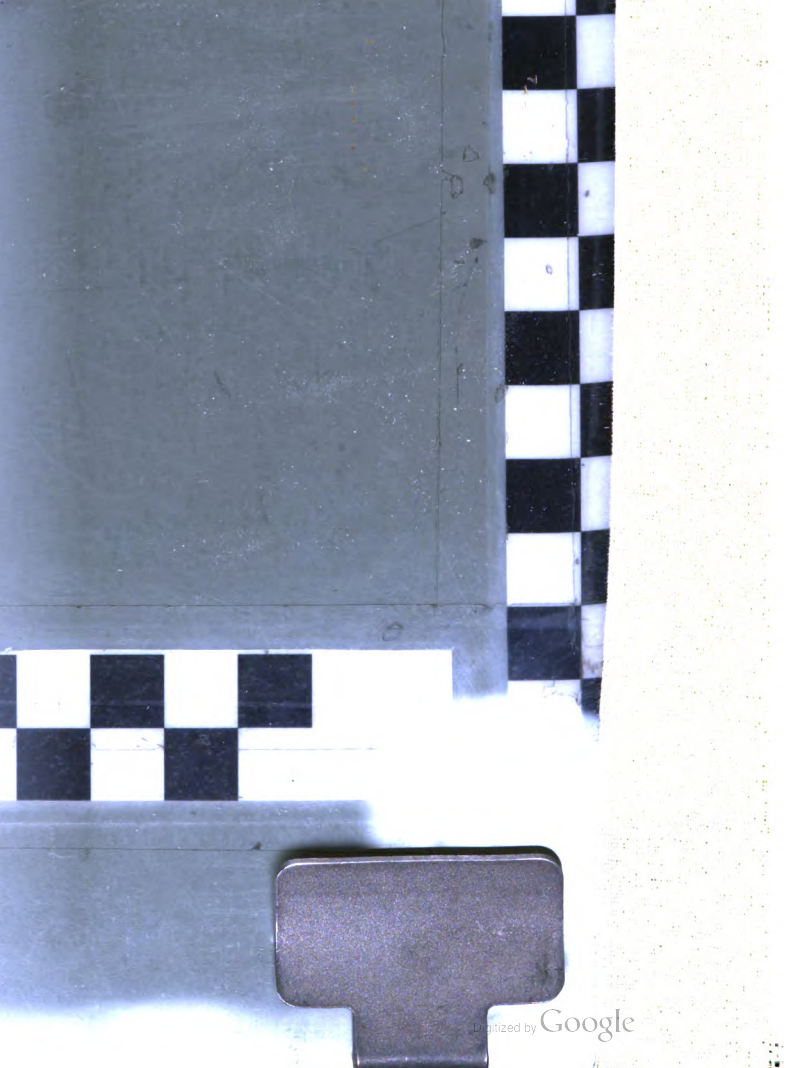
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**RECRUITS'  
HISTORY**

**OF THE**

**1ST LANCASHIRE  
REGIMENT.**





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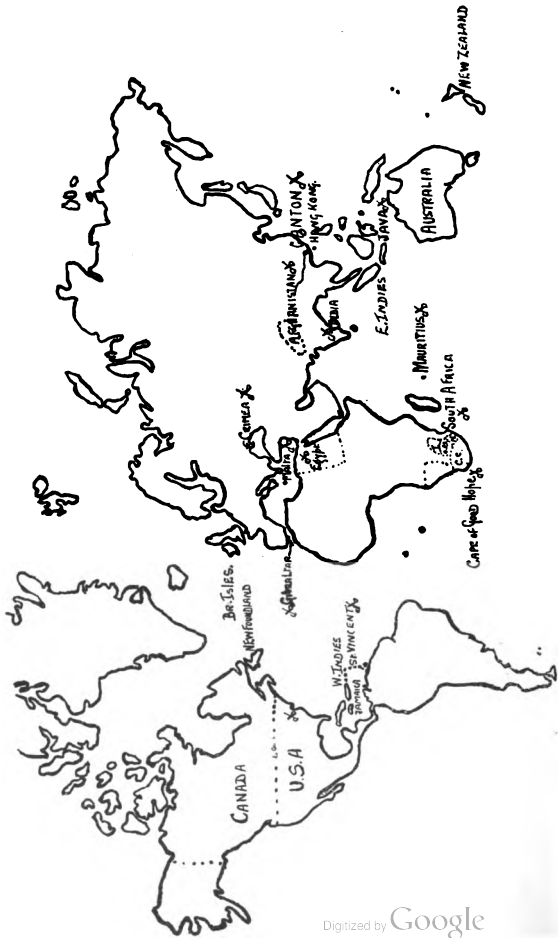
**OF THE**

**EAST LANCASHIRE  
REGIMENT.**









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**THE EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT.**

**XXXth and LIXth Foot.**



**The Recruits'**  
**History of**  
**the Regiment**



*Compiled by*  
**Sgt. Instructor F. W. Wood,**  
**ARMY EDUCATIONAL CORPS.**



## FOREWORD.

THIS little book does not pretend to be a complete history of the Regiment, but is simply an extract of some of the most interesting and important incidents in that history.

It is intended chiefly for use by the Recruit as an aid to obtaining his Third Class Certificate of Education, so that he may learn as soon as possible something of the Unit which he has joined, and that this "something" may kindle a spark of *Esprit de Corps* in him which will enable him at all times and in all places to live up to the proud motto of the East Lancashire Regiment.

“ SPECTAMUR AGENDO ”

(“ By our deeds we are known ”).

F. W. WOOD,

Sgt. Instructor, A.E. Corps.

*Preston,*

*December, 1926.*

THIS short history has been compiled with the object of assisting young soldiers to obtain a knowledge of their Regiment—of its victories and of the gallant deeds performed by their predecessors.

None can read it without feeling a “pride of Regiment.” Nor could one pay them greater honour than to imitate their example—Training and healthy life in peace ; Gallantry in war.

It is hoped that every man who joins will study this short history, and imbue himself with that spirit of determination and will to win which, throughout ages, has marked the soldier of the British Army.

C. S. HAMILTON, Major,  
Commanding Depôt,  
East Lancashire Regiment.

Preston,  
29th July, 1927.

## CONTENTS.

- LECTURE 1.—The Formation and Early History.
- LECTURE 2.—The Motto. Badges. Colours.
- LECTURE 3.—Honours gained in Europe :—  
Gibraltar and Napoleonic Wars.
- LECTURE 4.—Napoleonic Wars (continued).
- LECTURE 5.—The Waterloo Campaign.
- LECTURE 6.—The Crimean War.
- LECTURE 7.—Honours gained out of Europe.  
India and Afghanistan.
- LECTURE 8.—South African Honours.
- LECTURE 9.—Other interesting Honours.
- LECTURE 10.—The Great War.
- LECTURE 11.—War Memorials.
- LECTURE 12.—The Victoria Cross.

## First Lecture.

### **THE FORMATION.—EARLY HISTORY.— AMALGAMATION.**

The East Lancashire Regiment, as it is now known, came into existence in July, 1881, by the union of two old Regiments of Foot—the 30th Foot and the 59th Foot.

#### **30TH FOOT.**

The 30th Foot was first formed by Lord Castleton in 1689 for service in Holland, and when no longer required was disbanded.

When the War of the Spanish Succession broke out, more troops were needed, and the 30th were again formed. This time it was Colonel Thomas Saunderson, second son of Lord Castleton, who formed them as Marines in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, on 12th February, 1702.

#### **EARLY HISTORY.**

From 1702 to 1713, the 30th served as Marines, and was known as Saunderson's Marine Regiment. In 1713, the 30th became a regiment of the line, and down to 1743 was known by the name of the Colonel Commanding: for example, Saunderson's Foot, Will's Regiment, Bissett's Regiment and Frampton's Regiment.

## NUMBER.

In 1743, Frampton's Regiment received the number XXX., and from that year down to 1881 was known as the 30th Foot, although in August, 1782, the title of the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment was given to the unit.

## 59TH FOOT.

The 59th Foot was raised in December, 1755, by Colonel Charles Montagu at Nottingham and Leicester, by order of the Government.

It served as a separate unit until 1881.

In August, 1782, the title of the 2nd Nottinghamshire Regiment was conferred upon it.

## AMALGAMATION.

On 1st July, 1881, the 30th Foot and the 59th Foot were joined together and became the West Lancashire Regiment, with the Depôt at Burnley.

As the Recruiting District was situated in the east of the County of Lancashire, the title was shortly afterwards changed to the present one: The East Lancashire Regiment—the 30th becoming the 1st Battalion and the 59th the 2nd Battalion.

## Second Lecture.

### THE MOTTO.—CAP AND COLLAR BADGES.— COLOURS.

#### THE MOTTO.

The Motto of the East Lancashire Regiment is "**Spectamur Agendo.**" The meaning of this motto is, "**By our deeds we are known.**"

#### THE CAP BADGE.

The Cap Badge, i.e., the **Sphinx**, was given to the Regiment for distinguished service at the Green Hill, during the Battle of Alexandria, in Egypt in 1801.

The central figure is the **Sphinx**, superscribed **Egypt**. Underneath this is the **Lancashire Rose**. Surrounding the Sphinx and Rose is a **wreath** of laurels or bay leaves, surmounted by a crown. A **scroll**, resting on the bottom of the wreath, bears the words, "**East Lancashire.**"

#### COLLAR BADGE.

The Collar Badge is the Lancashire Rose.

#### THE COLOURS.

Each Battalion has two Colours—one known as the "**King's**" Colour, and the other as the "**Regimental**" Colour.

The "**King's**" Colour is a silken Union Jack which bears the Royal Crown in the centre and under this the Battalion and Regiment.

By a special order, the ten honours of the Great War which were selected to be carried on the Colours are carried on the " King's " Colour.

The " Regimental " Colour consists of a silken St. George's Cross.

In the centre is the name of the regiment and battalion, surrounded by a wreath of the Union, consisting of rose, thistle and shamrock. Above the wreath is the Royal Crown, and underneath is the Regimental motto and the Sphinx.

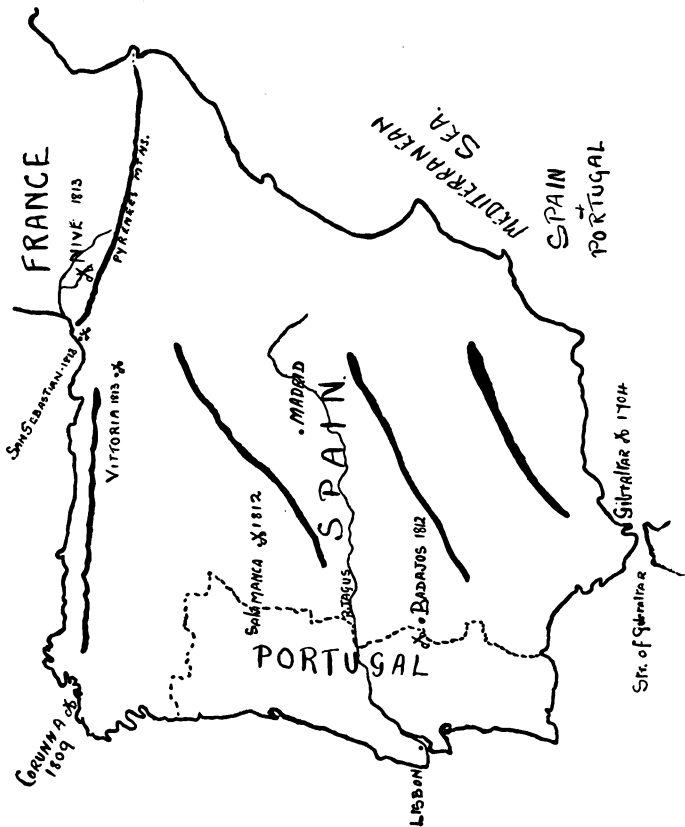
On this Colour are borne the honours gained by the Regiment before the Great War, 1914-1918.

Our Colours serve to keep ever-present in our minds the noble traditions of our Regiment, and our duty to King and Country.

## Third Lecture.

### **GIBRALTAR, AND THE NAPOLEONIC WAR.**

*Gibraltar, 23rd July, 1704.*—Gibraltar is a rocky fortress standing almost at the extreme south of Spain. It guards the narrow entrance to the Mediterranean Sea, the Strait of Gibraltar, and on account of this and its impregnable strength it is known as " The Key of the Mediterranean." It has a large garrison of troops, and is a naval base, with a dockyard and coaling and refreshing wharves.





The East Lancashires, when Marines, took part in the capture of this strong fortress by Sir George Rooke in 1704. They were also present at the defence of the "Rock," as it is sometimes called, in 1705, 1727, and during part of the long siege of 1779-1783.

*Egypt. Green Hill, Alexandria, 17th August, 1801.*—On the 14th December, 1800, Sir Ralph Abercromby received orders to embark 1,600 men at Malta and drive the French out of Egypt.

The 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment formed part of the Force, and greatly distinguished itself during the Campaign, and particularly during the attack on Alexandria, 17th August, 1801, when 180 men of the Regiment, led by Lieut.-Col. Lockhart, routed 600 of the enemy who were advancing to counter-attack the position gained by the Regiment. The East Lancashires, after receiving the French fire at 20 paces without checking, fell on the enemy with the bayonet and drove them back in confusion.

The Sphinx, superscribed Egypt, was added to the cap badge in recognition of the distinguished conduct of the Regiment in this Campaign.

#### PENINSULA WAR, 1808-1814.

*Cause.*—Napoleon had issued orders that no country was to trade with England. As Portugal took no notice of this order, Napoleon sent his

armies into Portugal. On the way, he put his brother, Joseph, on the Spanish Throne. Both countries appealed to England, and a British Army was sent out to help them.

In this Campaign, the East Lancashire Regiment gained the following honours :—

Corunna, 1809.	Badajoz, 1812.
Salamanca, 1812.	Vittoria, 1813.
San Sebastian, 1813.	Nive, 1813.

Peninsula.

*Corunna, 16th January, 1809.*—Corunna is a port in the north-west corner of Spain. A British Army under Sir John Moore was threatening the French communications in the centre of Spain, but had to retreat before a larger force. This was done towards Corunna, and is known as the “Retreat to Corunna.”

The 2nd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment had landed at Corunna in 1808, but, owing to lack of transport, was not able to join the main British Army until about half-way through the Retreat.

After joining in the retreat, the Regiment greatly distinguished itself by the splendid discipline which was kept up by its Commanding Officer, Colonel Fane. Owing to this, the Regiment lost far fewer men from straggling than most other Regiments.

Arriving at Corunna, Sir John Moore was compelled to turn and fight the French in a pitched

battle. This took place on 16th January, 1809. In this battle the East Lancashire Regiment distinguished itself by a brilliant bayonet charge, which relieved the pressure of an attack on the Guards Brigade and cleared the French from that part of the field. The French were repulsed, but unfortunately Sir John Moore was killed.

The Army embarked safely, but as the ship which carried the Regiment was leaving the harbour it was sunk by the French guns. Everybody was saved and put on board another vessel. The Colours were rescued by Sgt.-Major Perkins just as the ship sank.

## Fourth Lecture.

### **PENINSULA WAR.—Continued.**

After Corunna, the Regiment joined Lord Wellington's force in Portugal, and was present at the battle of **Fuentes D'Onoro** in 1811.

At the end of 1811, Lord Wellington lay in front of the great fortress of **Badajos**, which guarded the southern road from Portugal into Spain. Badajos was stormed by the British troops on the 6th April, 1812. It was one of the fiercest fights in the history of the Army.

The 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment played a prominent part in the assault on this fortress. They formed part of the column under

General Walker which captured the Bastion of St. Vincent, forced its way into the centre of the town, and received the surrender of the Garrison. In this great feat of arms the Regiment lost one-third of its numbers.

*Salamanca, 22nd July, 1812.* After Badajos had fallen, Lord Wellington's army advanced into Spain, and in July, 1812, the French were again defeated at Salamanca. In this engagement further honours fell to the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, who captured an Eagle and a Colour from the French.

*Vittoria, 21st June, 1813.* The French were now being forced back towards their own country, and so quickly did Lord Wellington advance that he caught them rather unexpectedly at Vittoria.

The 2nd Battalion performed a brilliant feat in this battle by capturing and holding, in spite of repeated attacks, a very important position.

This was the most decisive battle of the war. The French were utterly defeated and lost the whole of their baggage and artillery, and King Joseph himself narrowly escaped capture. They never recovered from the effects of this blow. In this battle, Colonel Fane was unfortunately killed.

*San Sebastian, July-August, 1813.* Now in full retreat to France, the French threw a force into the fortress, San Sebastian, which lay on the Spanish coast not far from the border of France.

The British Army laid siege to it for about two months, and then it was carried by storm.

The 2nd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment formed part of the assaulting force, and fought a hand-to-hand fight for three hours in the "Great Breach" before an entrance to the town was forced. Later on the Regiment occupied the Castle. The losses were terrible, as over one-third of the unit were killed, besides other casualties. This is one of the greatest fights fought by the Regiment.

*Nive, 8-11th December, 1813.* The Army now crossed the French border and forced the passage of the River Nive. This was the last battle of the War in which the East Lancashire Regiment took part. In it the Regiment made a number of bayonet charges, greatly distinguishing itself.

*Result of the War.* Spain and Portugal were freed from the French; Napoleon lost his power, and was sent to Elba, a small island in the Mediterranean Sea, off the N.W. coast of Italy.

## **Fifth Lecture.**

### **THE WATERLOO CAMPAIGN.**

After the end of the Peninsula War and the fall of Napoleon, Europe had just begun to settle down again when suddenly news was spread that Napoleon had escaped from Elba, landed in France,

and arrived in Paris. All his old troops had returned to him, and once more Europe was threatened with French domination.

When this event happened the East Lancashire Regiment was stationed at Antwerp in Belgium. It was immediately selected to form part of the Army which the Duke of Wellington was forming at Brussels, being placed in the 3rd Division.

*Quatre Bras, 16th June, 1815.* The first engagement between the two armies was at Quatre Bras, a small village a few miles south of Brussels. In this fight the East Lancashire Regiment was brought into action late in the evening and was almost immediately charged by cavalry. This charge was repulsed and the pressure on our infantry was eased. Suddenly, the regiment was again charged by cavalry, but owing to the terrific fire and good use of the bayonet this second attack was beaten back in disorder and the French never rallied again.

The conduct of the unit in this battle gained them great praise from their commanders, the most noteworthy being General Picton, who said he would report it to the Duke of Wellington. Unfortunately, General Picton was killed before he could do this.

Although the French were repulsed at Quatre Bras, the Duke of Wellington, owing to the defeat of the Prussians at Ligny, was forced to retire,

which he did to Waterloo. In this retirement, the East Lancashire Regiment were in the rear-guard.

*Waterloo, 18th June, 1815 (1st Battalion).*  
Reaching Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington drew his army up on a low ridge a mile or so south of the village. The East Lancashire Regiment occupied a place on the right of the Third Division. On the right of the Regiment was part of the Guards Brigade ; all were formed in squares.

The battle commenced about noon with a terrific attack on the position, and from that time until late in the evening the Regiment met and repulsed attack after attack of both the French cavalry and infantry, all the while being exposed to the murderous fire of artillery. During the final attack by Napoleon's Old Guard, the Regiment captured one of the drums of the 105th Regiment, still preserved in the Officers' Mess of the Battalion.

When this last attack had been defeated, and seeing that by now the Prussians were coming in on the left flank, the Duke of Wellington, whose position throughout the battle was not far away from the 1st Battalion, gave the order to advance. When the 1st Battalion moved, a perfect square of dead remained, showing that their front had not been broken. In this great struggle the Regiment lost nearly half its numbers.

After Waterloo, the Regiment took part in the march on Paris, and then returned home.

*Result.* Waterloo finally smashed the power of Napoleon, and removed the fear of French domination in Europe.

## Sixth Lecture.

### **THE CRIMEAN WAR, 1854-56.**

After the Battle of Waterloo a peace settled on Europe, which lasted about forty years.

This long period of peace was broken in 1854 by the outbreak of War between England, France, and Turkey on one side and Russia on the other.

#### **CAUSE.**

To keep the balance of Power in Europe and to stop Russian intrigue and aggression against Turkey.

A British Army was sent to the Crimean Peninsula, in the South of Russia, where the Russians had just completed the new and strong fortress of Sebastopol.

An immediate advance was made on this fortress, but the troops found the way barred by a Russian Army, which occupied a strong position on the heights of Alma.



**BATTLE OF ALMA, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1854.**

The Russian position was attacked and captured by the British troops, the 1st East Lancashire Regiment distinguishing itself greatly during the fight.

Siege was now laid to Sebastopol.

**BATTLE OF INKERMAN, 5TH NOVEMBER, 1854.**

On 5th November, 1854, the Russians, in order to try to raise the Siege of Sebastopol, made a general attack, under cover of a dense fog, on the British positions.

Owing to the fog the generals could not issue orders to direct the fight, and so every man fought for himself. The battle was won by the sheer bravery and fighting skill of the British soldiers, and because of this Inkerman is known as "The Soldier's Battle."

The East Lancashire Regiment played a distinguished part in this battle by their defence of a rough stone wall called the "Barrier."

This point of the British line was held by about 200 men of the East Lancashire Regiment, under Lieut.-Col. Mauleverer and Lieut. and Adjutant Mark Walker.

As the Russians advanced against his exposed position with two Battalions in front and two in second line, Colonel Mauleverer opened fire, but so

many rifles had been injured by damp that he ordered his men to cease fire and lie down behind the barrier.

When the leading battalions of the enemy were almost on him, Colonel Mauleverer gave the word, and he and his officers mounted the barrier and leapt down upon the enemy, sword in hand.

His men followed with the bayonet, and although Colonel Mauleverer and many others fell, the Regiment, after a short hand-to-hand struggle, drove the Russians before them in a helpless mob.

Again and again the Russians attacked, but the position was stubbornly held till the battle was won.

For his part in this battle Lieut. and Adjt. Mark Walker was awarded the Victoria Cross.

SEBASTOPOL TAKEN, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1855.

All through the winter of 1854-55 the war dragged on, and it was not until September, 1855, that the Russians evacuated Sebastopol and the Allies entered it.

Very little fighting took place after this, and Peace was signed in 1856.

CONDITIONS.

The Crimean War is noticeable as being fought under very bad conditions. The organisation was bad, transport broke down, and the Medical Service was terrible, until Miss Florence Nightingale

re-organised it. The troops were ravaged by cold and disease, and the only bright spot was the wonderful fighting spirit of the British troops.

#### RESULT.

Russia was forbidden to rebuild Sebastopol and to keep War ships in the Black Sea. Her resources were crippled for a long time.

## Seventh Lecture.

### **INDIA AND THE SECOND AFGHAN WAR.**

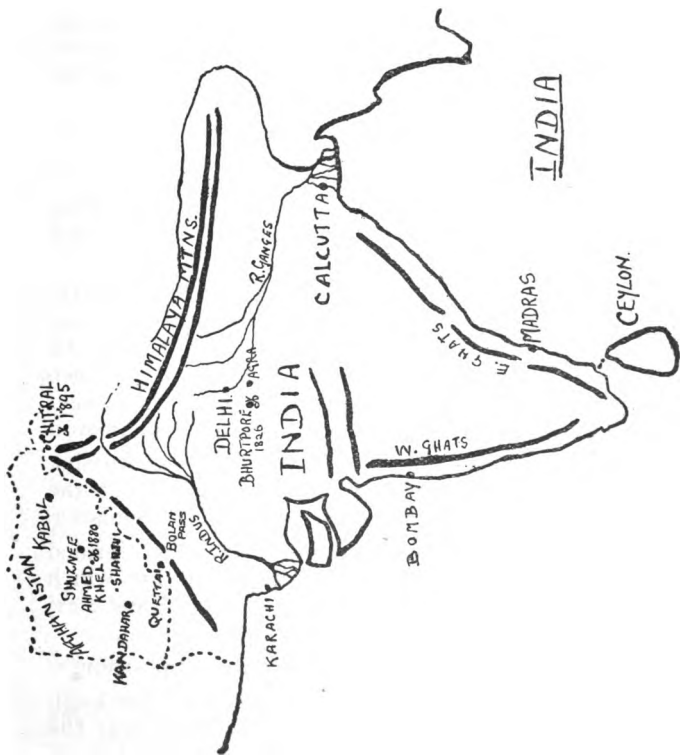
**BHURTPORE, 18TH JANUARY, 1826.**

Of the many engagements in which the East Lancashire Regiment has taken part in India, the most important and interesting is the Siege of Bhurtpore in 1826, during the War against the Jats.

Bhurtpore is situated in Central India, not far from the well-known town of Agra, and at this time was a very strong fortress.

Late in 1825 the 2nd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment was ordered to join the British force which was laying siege to this fortress.

During this siege an Officer of the regiment, Captain Carmichael, with ten men of the Grenadier Company, performed a very daring deed. In broad daylight they went forward to find out what damage had been done to the walls of the fortress by our guns. Only one man was lost in this brave feat.



On 18th January, 1826, the breaches in the walls were blown up by mines, and in the confusion which followed the fortress was stormed, and after a fierce fight it was captured. In this fight the Regiment lost very heavily.

#### AFGHAN WAR, 1878-1881.

The next important event in which the East Lancashire Regiment took part was the 2nd Afghan War.

Afghanistan is a country situated to the north-west of India. It acts as a "buffer" state between Russia and India. We have always had to be friendly towards the Afghans and to try to keep them friendly towards us on account of the danger of a Russian invasion of India, through Afghanistan.

The cause of the 2nd Afghan War was Russian intrigue in Afghanistan and the murder of the British envoy to Kabul, the Capital of Afghanistan.

The 2nd East Lancashire Regiment formed part of the force, under Sir Donald Stewart, which advanced through the Bolan Pass on Kandahar, a town in the South of Afghanistan.

This town was occupied with no opposition.

Shortly after this two Companies of this Regiment had a sharp fight with the enemy near the village of Shahjui. It was in this fight that Capt. Sartorius gained his Victoria Cross.

AHMED KHEL, 19TH APRIL, 1880.

Orders were now received for Sir Donald Stewart's force to advance north of Ghuzree.

As the force reached the village of Ahmed Khel it was suddenly charged by a very large force of the enemy, led by several hundred "Ghazis," or religious fanatics.

This charge was so fierce that it broke through the cavalry on the left of the line, and some of the enemy actually got in rear of the infantry.

The fight lasted two hours and ended in the total defeat of the enemy, who left over 1,000 dead and 2,000 wounded on the field.

The East Lancashire Regiment held the centre of the line, and at the end of the battle about 450 dead Afghans lay in front of their position, some almost in the position. A fact which shows how fierce the fight had been. The Regiment had fourteen casualties.

The Column now advanced and occupied Ghuzree and then moved forward to Kabul.

Shortly after this the Regiment was ordered home.

CHITRAL, 1895.

The next fighting in India seen by the East Lancashire Regiment was the Chitral Relief Expedition of 1895.

Chitral is a town up on the north-west frontier of India, and is one of the outposts of the Empire.

Some of the surrounding tribes, who own no man as master, rose up, and after cutting off communication with India, laid siege to Chitral.

The 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment was selected to form part of the Chitral Relief Expedition.

After crossing very difficult country, the Expedition successfully relieved Chitral.

The Regiment occupied the Malakand Pass for five months, keeping open communication with India.

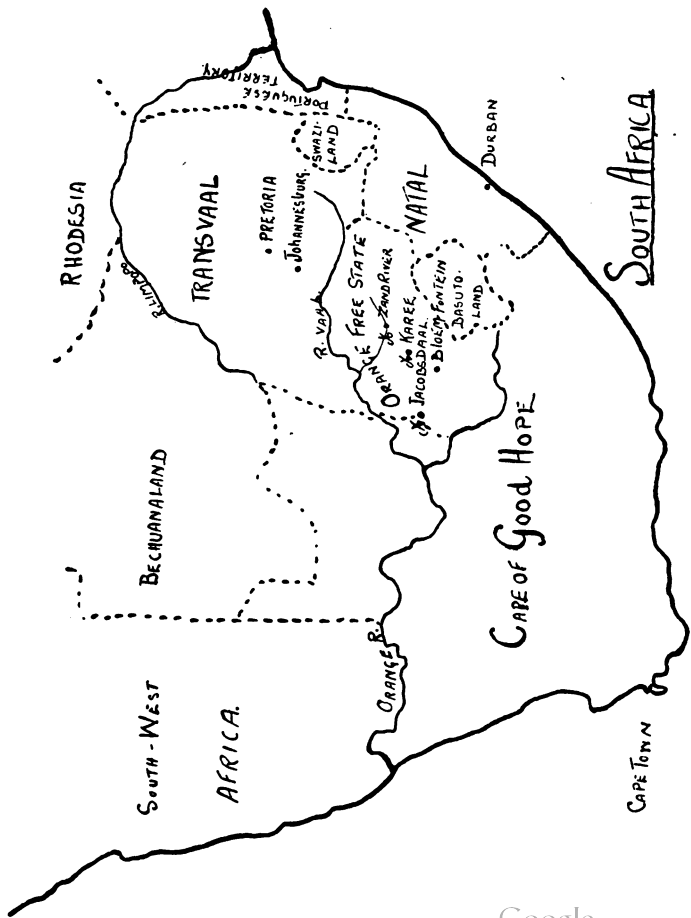
## Eighth Lecture.

### **HONOURS GAINED IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

One of the most important and interesting parts of the British Empire is South Africa.

The first connection of the East Lancashire Regiment with this great country occurred over one hundred years ago.

*Cape of Good Hope, 1806.* In 1806, the 2nd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment was selected to form part of an Expedition under Sir David Baird which had as its object the capture of the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch. After great difficulties, a landing was made, the Dutch were





defeated, and Cape Town was captured. In this expedition the troops suffered severely from want of water and supplies.

Nearly one hundred years later the East Lancashire Regiment was again engaged in South Africa, against the descendants of the Dutch whom they had defeated in 1806. These Dutch farmers had gone inland and founded two Republics—the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. Gold was discovered in the Transvaal, and this brought into the country foreigners, many of whom worked the mines.

*Second Boer War, 1899–1902. Cause.*—The Boer Republics wished to tax the foreigners without allowing them any rights of citizenship. Great Britain objected to this, and, after some unsuccessful efforts to keep peace, the Boers declared war.

The 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment took part in this campaign as a unit of the Army under Lord Roberts which marched on Pretoria.

*Jacobsdaal, 15th February, 1900.* The first action of the war in which the Regiment took part was the capture of Jacobsdaal, which it afterwards garrisoned to secure the flank of the British Army during the operations which ended in the capture of the Boer General, Cronje, and his force at Paardeburg.

After this event, the Regiment marched to Bloemfontein, earning praise from Lord Roberts on account of the cheerfulness and gallantry with which the many hardships of climate and shortage of rations were endured.

*Karee, 29th March, 1900.* Leaving Bloemfontein, the Army advanced towards Pretoria, but was held up by a very strong position which the Boers had prepared on a line of low hills at Karee. The troops advanced to the attack, but were met by a terrific fire which caused many casualties, and for a time held them up. The East Lancashire Regiment was ordered to take a large detached "kopje," or hill. This was done successfully with but few casualties, due to the skilful leadership. This kopje was afterwards known as "Lancashire Hill."

The conduct of the East Lancashire Regiment in this battle earned the praise of the Divisional General.

*Zand River, May 10th, 1900.* After the Boer position of Karee was taken, the advance continued until it was again held up by another strong enemy position on the north bank of the Zand River.

In the engagement which followed, the East Lancashire Regiment was ordered to capture the kopje which formed the key of the Boer position. This was carried out successfully with a loss of only six killed and wounded, although the men had to face heavy rifle, machine-gun and artillery fire.

Again advancing, the force reached Johannesburg, where it was reviewed by Lord Roberts, who congratulated the troops on their splendid performance.

Shortly after this, Pretoria was occupied, and the war developed into "guerilla warfare."

The East Lancashire Regiment took its full share in the hard and incessant operations which gradually wore down the Boer resistance.

The war came to an end in 1902, peace being signed on the 31st May, and the Transvaal and Orange Free State became part of the British Empire.

## Ninth Lecture.

### **OTHER INTERESTING HONOURS AND ENGAGEMENTS.**

#### *In Europe.*

*Bastia, 1794.* Bastia is a town in the Island of Corsica. It was at the siege of Bastia, in 1794 that the Regiment (30th Foot) served under Lord Nelson and earned his warm praise.

*Malta, 1800.* Malta, an island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, and an important station on the main route to India and the East. It is a naval base, dockyard, coaling station, and refreshing station, and a strong garrison of troops is kept there. Valetta is the capital, and is famous for its fine harbour.

The 1st Battalion the East Lancashire Regiment took part in the siege of Valetta and the capture of the island from the French in 1800.

*In America.*

When the British colonies in America (now the U.S.A.) revolted in 1775, the 2nd Battalion The East Lancashire Regiment was stationed at Boston, and was, therefore, one of the first regiments engaged. It took part in the Battles of Lexington and Bunker's Hill, losing heavily in the latter engagement. It was then sent home to recruit.

Towards the end of the war, the 1st Battalion was sent out, and took a prominent part in the defeat of the Americans at Eutaw Springs, one of the hardest fought actions of the war.

*West Indies, 1795.*

When war broke out with France in 1793, the 2nd Battalion The East Lancashire Regiment, after a few months' fighting in Europe, was sent to the West Indies, where it took a prominent part in the capture of the island of St. Vincent, greatly distinguishing itself in the actions at the Vigie, Mount William, and Millar's Ridge.

*East Indies.*

*Java, 1811.* Java is an island in the East Indies. In 1811, the 2nd Battalion The East

Lancashire Regiment (59th Foot) was chosen to take part in the expedition sent to capture this island from the Dutch. In the fighting the Regiment took a very distinguished part in the capture of the enemy's strongest position, Fort Cornelis, by taking a redoubt, seizing the artillery pack, and finally capturing the Dutch General.

### *China.*

*Canton, 1857.* The "unique" honour of the Regiment. Canton is an important port in South China at the mouth of the Canton River, and not far from the island of Hong Kong.

In 1856 riots broke out in Canton, and the 2nd Battalion The East Lancashire Regiment sent a detachment of one hundred men from Hong Kong to protect the Europeans.

The next year (1857), as the Chinese still persisted in their violence towards Europeans, a combined British and French force was sent against them. Canton was attacked by land and sea, and finally stormed and captured.

As the 2nd Battalion was the only British Regiment to take part in this expedition, the East Lancashire Regiment is the only regiment in the British Army to have the honour "Canton" on its Colours.

## Tenth Lecture.

### THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1918.

THE GREAT WAR—"Le Cateau,"  
**"Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18,"** "Armentières, 1914," **"Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915, '17, '18,"** "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," **"Somme, 1916, '18,"** "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Pozières," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916, '18," **"Arras, 1917, '18,"** "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, '18," "Arleux," "Oppy," "Messines, 1917," "Pilckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "St. Quentin," "Bapaume, 1918," "Rosières," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Baillleul," "Kemmel," "Hindenbug "Line," "Canal du Nord," "Cambrai, 1918," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Kosturino," **"Doiran, 1917, '18,"** "Macedonia, 1915-18," **"Helles,"** "Krithia," "Suvla," "Sari Bair," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Tigris, 1916," **"Kut al Amara, 1917,"** "Baghdad," "Mesopotamia, 1916-17."

*Cause.*—Whatever reason may be given in future history as the cause of the Great War, there is no doubt that the entry of Great Britain into this struggle was directly due to the invasion of Belgium by the Germans, who thus broke a treaty in which we had promised to respect the neutrality of Belgium in war time.

During this struggle the East Lancashire Regiment was extended to thirteen Battalions, of which two were Regular, one Special Reserve, two Territorial, and eight Service Battalions.

The 1st Battalion was stationed at Colchester when war broke out, and formed part of the 11th Infantry Brigade, 4th Division. This Division formed part of the original British Expeditionary Force, under Sir John French.

The Battalion took part in all the earlier battles of the war, including Le Cateau, Marne, Aisne, and Ypres. Later, it greatly distinguished itself at Beaumont Hamel during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Further heavy fighting was seen by it in the Battle of Arras and in the fight for Passchendaele Ridge.

During the great German advance in March, 1918, the Battalion played a prominent part in the fighting around St. Leger and Armentieres, and also in the final advance of the Allies which led up to the Armistice on November 11th, 1918.

The 2nd Battalion was stationed at Wynberg, in Cape Colony, when war broke out, and was brought home and formed part of the 24th Brigade, 8th Division. Proceeding to France, it took part in all the severe fighting on the Western Front, particularly distinguishing itself in the fighting around Villers Bretonneux during the German advance in 1918, and also by its fine defensive work against a German tank attack on the Aisne. It took part in the final advance of the Allies.

The Territorial Battalions, the 4th and 5th, were expanded into two and even three line formations, and fought with distinction on all fronts, particularly with the Lancashire Brigade at Gallipoli, at Passchendaele Ridge, and during the German advance in 1918.

The Service Battalions also distinguished themselves, particularly in the fighting around Buzentin-le-Petit, at Pozières, in the third Ypres battle, at Roeux, and by the fine defence of their position in front of Hazebrouck during the German advance on the Lys in 1918.

## Eleventh Lecture.

### **THE VICTORIA CROSS.**

The Victoria Cross (V.C.) is the highest honour a soldier can have conferred on him.

It was first instituted by Queen Victoria in 1856, as she was so struck by the bravery of her troops in the Crimean War. It is given for distinguished gallantry in the face of the enemy, and can be won by all ranks.

In form it is a Maltese Cross made of bronze, on which rests the Royal Crest, the lion above the Crown, and under this a scroll bearing the words



“ For Valour.” Its worth in actual money is only a few pence, but as an emblem of honour it is priceless.

Six members of the East Lancashire Regiment have gained this coveted honour. Their names and gallant actions are recorded as follows:—

*Crimean War, 1854–56.*

*Lieut. and Adjutant Mark Walker* (afterwards Major-General), 30th Foot.—For distinguished gallantry at the Battle of Inkerman, 5th November, 1854, in jumping over a wall, in the face of two battalions of Russian infantry which were marching towards it, for the purpose of encouraging his comrades, by his example, to advance against such heavy odds, which they did and succeeded in driving back both battalions.

*2nd Afghan War, 1879–81.*

*Captain E. H. Sartorius* (afterwards Major-General), 2nd Battalion.—For distinguished gallantry on October 23rd, 1879, in attacking and routing a party of desperate Afghans who had taken up a strong position among the rocks at Shahjui. Captain Sartorius was severely wounded in this fight.

*Great War, 1914–1918.*

*Drummer S. J. Bent* (afterwards C.S.M.), 1st Battalion.—For conspicuous bravery near Le Gheer on the night of 1st–2nd November, 1914,

when, after his Officer, Platoon Sergeant, and Section Commander had been struck down, he took command and, with great presence of mind and coolness, succeeded in holding a position.

He had previously distinguished himself on two occasions by bringing up ammunition under very heavy fire, and again by bringing under cover some wounded men who were lying exposed to the enemy's fire.

*2nd-Lieutenant A. V. Smith* (1/5th Battalion). At Helles, Gallipoli, on 23rd October, 1915, Lieut. Smith was throwing a grenade when it slipped from his hand and fell to the bottom of the trench. He shouted a warning and jumped to safety, but, seeing that his comrades could not escape, he flung himself on the grenade, thus saving their lives at the expense of his own.

*Pte. W. Young* (8th Battalion).—For conspicuous bravery at Fonquevillers, France, on 22nd December, 1915, in rescuing his Platoon Sergeant under heavy fire, although both his jaws were broken and he was also wounded in the chest.

*2nd-Lieut. B. A. Horsfall* (11th Battalion).—For distinguished bravery and devotion to duty near Moyerville on 27th March, 1918. Lieut. Horsfall, although wounded in the head, still carried on, and by a counter-attack recovered the position from which his platoon had been driven.

Again, after being forced to withdraw his platoon owing to heavy shell fire, he made a second counter-attack and, leading his platoon forward, drove the enemy from the position with the bayonet.

Shortly after the German advance was finally stopped in this sector, this gallant officer was shot through the head by a sniper.

## War Memorials.

The War Memorials of a Regiment serve to remind us of the glorious deeds performed by our forefathers when fighting for King and Country.

The earliest war memorial of the East Lancashire Regiment is the Crimea Memorial to all Officers and Men of the 1st Battalion. This can be seen in the Garrison Church at the Depôt. In St. Peter's Church at Burnley, there is a Marble Tablet commemorating the names of the Officers and Men of the 1st Battalion who fell in the South African War.

Two cottage homes were also built in that town, where old soldiers of the Regiment who served in the South African War can live rent free, while the Officers' Messes of both Battalions contain silver memorials of this War.

War Memorials of the late War are numerous. The magnificent Silver Drums carried by the 1st Battalion were given in memory of the many Officers who lost their lives during the War. They were given by relations of these Officers.

The War Memorial of the 2nd Battalion consists of a Wooden Shrine which contains the name of every man in the Battalion who was killed, and this is hung in the Regimental Institute. A large book is also kept in the Officers' Mess showing photographs of the Officers.

In addition to the above, a Tablet is placed in the Chapel at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in memory of all Officers who passed through the R.M.C. and who joined the Regiment and were killed.

The Regimental Memorial to the men of the Regiment consists of 16 silver bugles, eight to each Battalion. These were presented by the Town of Burnley.

Apart from the purely Regimental memorials, the names of men who served in the East Lancashire Regiment are to be found on practically every great War Memorial in the country, showing that the Regiment's appeal for men was answered from every corner of the British Isles.

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