

World War One Insignia In Cathays Upper Cemetery - A Guide



The Friends of Cathays Cemetery

Sword of Sacrifice Commonwealth War Graves – World War I

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EB 66. The King's (Liverpool Regiment)



The white horse of Hanover was an honour granted to the Regiment by George I following its operations against Jacobite rebels in 1715.

On the outbreak of the First World War (1914-18), 1st Battalion deployed to France with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914. It remained on the Western Front throughout the conflict.

2nd Battalion was stationed on the North-West Frontier from 1908 to 1920, including service in the Third Afghan War (1919).

The regiment raised 41 Reserve, Territorial, New Army and Garrison battalions between 1914 and 1918. Most of these served on the Western Front or at home stations, although a couple fought at Salonika and one went on to join the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War (1917-22).

Overall, more than 13,000 men of the regiment were killed in the First World War.

EB 109. Gloucestershire Regiment



A sphinx over the "Egypt" honour, awarded for actions against the French in 1801.

In August 1914, 1st Battalion deployed straight to the Western Front, staying there until the end of the First World War (1914-18). 2nd Battalion had moved to Tientsin in China in 1913, so only arrived in France four months after the fighting had started. In November 1915, it transferred to the Salonika front, remaining there for the rest of the conflict.

The regiment also raised 21 Territorial, Reserve and New Army battalions during the war. These mainly served in Britain and on the Western Front. However, 1/4th and 1/5th Battalions served in Italy, and 7th Battalion was sent to Persia (now Iran) in July 1918, having also fought at Gallipoli in 1915.

After the war, 1st Battalion spent three years serving during the Irish War of Independence (1919-21). It then joined the Army of Occupation in Germany before moving to Egypt, Singapore, India and Burma. 2nd Battalion spent the inter-war years in India and Egypt.

EB 40. Royal Welsh Fusiliers



A Fusilier grenade distinguished by the Prince of Wales's plume, motto and coronet, granted to the Regiment in 1751. The sphinx was also granted for action in Egypt in 1801, but this device was only carried on the Regimental colours.

During the First World War (1914-18), 1st Battalion fought on the Western Front and, from 1917, in Italy. 2nd Battalion spent the entire war in France and Flanders. The regiment also raised 34 Reserve, Territorial, Garrison and New Army battalions that served at home and in all the main theatres of war, including Gallipoli and Salonika.

The regiment received eight Victoria Crosses during the conflict. It also had several notable authors among its ranks, including David Jones, Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves, and the Welsh-language poet Hedd Wyn, who was killed at Ypres in 1917.

EB 1. The Highland Light Infantry



This insignia is based on the star of the Order of the Thistle, with the Light Infantry bugle and regimental monogram at its centre. The battle honour 'Assaye' (found on both short and long scrolls) and the elephant were awarded for services in India against the Mahrattas in 1803.

Both regular battalions served on the Western Front during the First World War (1914-18). Additionally, 1st Battalion fought in Mesopotamia from 1916.

The regiment also raised 14 Territorial battalions and 11 Reserve and Service battalions. Three of the Territorial battalions were sent to Gallipoli in 1915.

In 1919, 2nd Battalion joined the British force fighting the Bolsheviks in Northern Russia. Inter-war service in Palestine, Turkey, India, Ireland and Malta followed.

EB 104. Northumberland Fusiliers

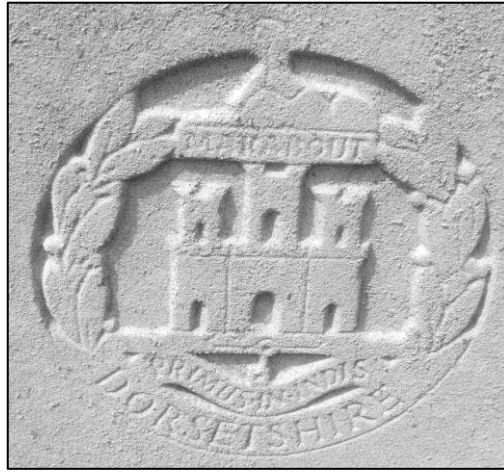


This is the most senior Fusilier regiment of the British Army. The design carries a depiction of St George and the Dragon, possibly adopted when the Regiment joined the British Army after service with William of Orange in Ireland.

The Northumberland Fusiliers raised 50 Reserve, Territorial, New Army, Garrison and Home Service battalions for the First World War (1914-18), a number only bettered by the all-territorial London Regiment. 29 of these battalions served overseas, earning 67 battle honours in France and Flanders, Salonika, Gallipoli, Egypt and Italy. The regiment sustained over 16,000 dead.

Of its regular units, 1st Battalion spent the whole of the conflict on the Western Front, arriving there in August 1914 and going on to fight in many of the main engagements. 2nd Battalion was in India on the outbreak of war, but deployed to France in January 1915. Later that year, it was transferred to Egypt and then to Salonika.

EB 90. Dorsetshire Regiment



The sphinx on this emblem was derived from service in Egypt, the Regiment having captured Fort Marabout from the French. The castle and the key of Gibraltar were granted for service on the Rock during the siege of 1779-83, while the title "Primus in Indus" (First in India) relates to the fact that they were the first crown regiment to serve in the subcontinent, famously serving under Clive at the Battle of Plassey.

On the outbreak of the First World War (1914-18), 1st Battalion was in Britain and so deployed straight to the Western Front. It stayed there throughout the conflict and was the first-ever British unit to face a gas attack, on 5 May 1915 at Hill 60.

2nd Battalion had moved back to India in 1906 and deployed from there to Mesopotamia in November 1914. It suffered such heavy casualties that in February 1916 it had to amalgamate with 2nd Battalion, The Norfolk Regiment to form the English Battalion, nicknamed 'the Norsets'.

It was able to re-form as an independent battalion five months later, remaining in Mesopotamia until April 1918. It then moved to Egypt, Palestine and finally Syria.

The regiment also raised three Territorial and three New Army battalions during the conflict. One of these, 5th Battalion, fought at Gallipoli in 1915.

EB 28. Machine Gun Corps



Raised in 1916 the corps took the badge of the Motor Machine Gun Service, omitting the MMG title. The machine depicted shows the Mark I Vickers. The Corps was disbanded in 1922.

Units from the Machine Gun Corps were responsible for offensive and defensive fire support so were always a prime target for enemy fire. Wartime casualties were so heavy (62,000 out of 170,000 officers and men) that the corps was nicknamed the 'suicide club'.

Seven Victoria Crosses were awarded to officers and men from the Corps or attached to it - all in 1917 and 1918, and all but one on the Western Front. The MGC's personnel included WE Johns, the author of 'Biggles', and Kermit Roosevelt, son of American president Theodore Roosevelt.

As well as on the Western Front, the MGC operated in the Middle East, Italy, Salonika and East Africa during the First World War (1914-18).

In 1919, parts of the Corps were sent to serve in the Russian Civil War and the Third Afghan War. It also formed part of the post-war occupation force in Germany and fought on India's North West Frontier.

EB 98. Inniskilling Dragoons



This regiment, together with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, formed part of William III's defence of the castle of Inniskilling in northern Ireland against the forces of the deposed James II in 1688. The castle would figure in the insignia of both regiments, flying St George's flag. This regiment remained in the British Army after 1922 when it was amalgamated with the 5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) to form the 5th/6th Dragoons.

During the First World War (1914-18), the regiment arrived on the Western Front from India in December 1914. It spent the whole of the conflict there, fighting in both a mounted and dismounted role. Its battle honours included the Somme (1916), Cambrai (1917) and Amiens (1918).

The badge is based on the star of the Order of the Thistle, with the Light Infantry bugle and regimental monogram at its centre. The battle honour 'Assaye' (found on both short and long scrolls) and the elephant were awarded for services in India against the Mahrattas in 1803. There is an all-brass 1916-issue version of this badge.

EB 35. Royal West Kent – The Queens Own



The rearing white horse depicted on this badge is associated with this regiment's home county, as is the motto, Invicta ('Unconquered'). Both are derived from the ancient kingdom of Kent, the device being used by Kentish warriors for centuries.

1st Battalion deployed from Ireland to France at the outbreak of the First World War (1914-18) in August 1914. In February 1915, 2nd Battalion landed in Mesopotamia (now Iraq), where it remained until the war's end, although two of its companies were captured at Kut al Amara in April 1916.

1st Battalion briefly deployed to Italy between November 1917 and April 1918, before returning to the Western Front for the remainder of the conflict. The regiment also raised 14 Territorial and New Army battalions between 1914 and 1918. These served at home stations, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Italy and on the Western Front.

EB. 20. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry



The Light Infantry bugle is topped with a ducal coronet in this badge. The regiment was awarded the honour of being Light Infantry in 1857, after its defence of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny, and was the last regiment to be designated a representative of this specialist corps.

1st Battalion deployed directly from Britain to the Western Front in August 1914. It remained there for the rest of the First World War (1914-18), except for a six-month spell in Italy from November 1917. 2nd Battalion spent 11 months on the Western Front from December 1914, before shifting to Macedonia.

The regiment also raised 11 Territorial and New Army battalions. These served in Salonika, India, Aden, Egypt and Mesopotamia, as well as on the Western Front.

EB 4. Lincolnshire Regiment



The Lincolnshire Regiment played a prominent part in the war with Revolutionary France and the Peninsular War, but it's finest hour was when the Regiment sailed from India in 1801, to reinforce an army sent from England, to fight Napoleon's troops in Egypt. For the Lincolnshire Regiment to reach the rest of the army, a forced march was necessary - through 120 miles of desert, from Cossier, on the Red Sea, to Kenna, on the River Nile. This arduous march took place under the watchful eyes of unfriendly Arabs who may have attacked at any moment. Under the blistering heat of the sun, the soldiers found the going tough. Some, unable to resist the inclination to sleep, and overcome with heat and thirst, lay on the burning sand to rest, never to re-awake. The journey across the barren desert was accomplished in a magnificent 8 days but, despite all their best efforts, the Lincolns arrived at Kenna too late to take part in the fight that finally expelled Napoleon's army from Egypt. For all it's services in the campaign against Napoleon in Egypt, the Lincolnshire Regiment was granted the honour of wearing the Sphinx as a distinguished mark of the King's "Royal Approbation", both on Regimental Colours and on their headgear.

EB 72. Hampshire Regiment

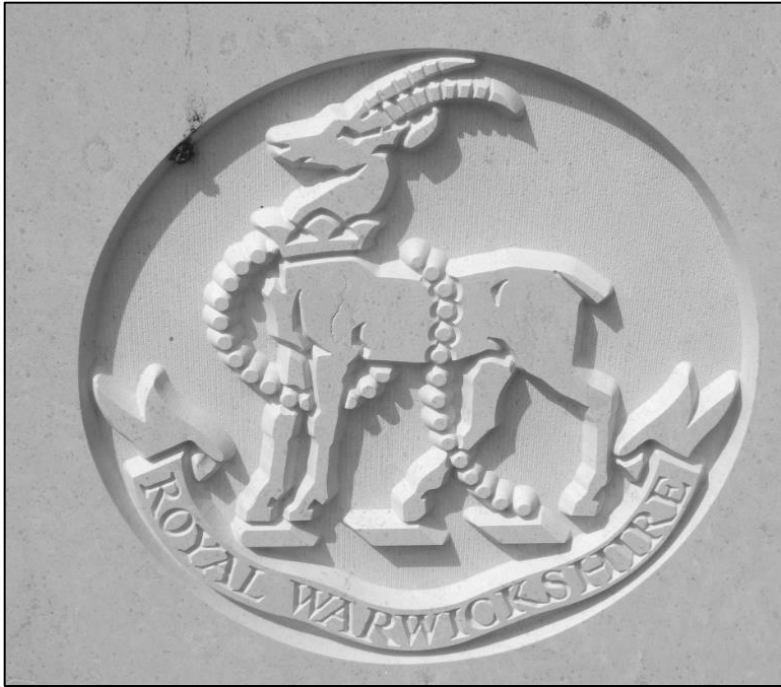


Commonly known as the 'Cat and Cabbage', this insignia has the royal tiger, awarded for action in India during 1805-26, particularly at the siege of Asseerghur; below is the Hampshire rose, by repute granted to the city of Winchester by Henry V on his way to Agincourt.

During the First World War (1914-18), the regiment's two regular battalions deployed to the Western Front - 1st Battalion in 1914 and 2nd Battalion in 1916. The latter also served in Egypt and at Gallipoli (1915), where it landed from the 'River Clyde' at Cape Helles. Both battalions remained in France for the rest of the war.

The regiment also raised 31 Reserve, Territorial and New Army battalions. These served at home, on the Western Front, in India, Mesopotamia, Salonika and Egypt.

EB 79. Royal Warwickshire Regiment



The antelope of their bimetal cap badge is associated with the regiment's service overseas during the War of the Spanish Succession, possibly deriving from the standard of a Spanish regiment beaten at the Battle of Saragossa in 1710.

During the First World War (1914-18), the regiment raised 31 Regular, Territorial, Reserve and New Army battalions consisting of 47,500 men. These served in France and Belgium, Italy, Gallipoli and Mesopotamia. The regiment lost about 11,000 men during the conflict.

Its officers included Bernard Montgomery, who was badly wounded on the Western Front in 1914, and William Slim who served at Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia.

EB 86. Leicestershire Regiment



This badge bears a 'royal tiger' (green with gold stripes on the regimental colour) with the honour scroll 'Hindoostan', both granted to the regiment (then 17th Foot) for services in India during 1804—23.

1st Battalion spent the whole of the First World War (1914-18) on the Western Front, arriving in August 1914 and going on to fight in many of the major battles of the campaign.

In October 1914, it was joined by 2nd Battalion, which remained in France and Flanders until late 1915. It then served in Egypt, Mesopotamia and Palestine, where it assisted in the final defeat of the Turks.

The regiment eventually raised 19 Reserve, Territorial, New Army, Labour and Garrison battalions. These served at home stations, on the Western Front and in the Middle East.

EB 107. The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)



This regiment was raised in 1661. The Paschal (holy) lamb was part of the arms of Queen Catherine of Braganza, the wife of Charles II, its use confirmed by the Royal Warrant of 1751.

Both battalions deployed to the Western Front in 1914. 1st Battalion remained there until 1918 and 2nd Battalion until 1917 when it moved to Italy.

During the First World War (1914-18), the regiment also raised 23 Territorial, New Army and labour battalions. These served on the Western Front, in India, Egypt, Gallipoli, Palestine, Salonika and Mesopotamia.

EB 92. Royal Berkshire Regiment



They wore the dragon in honour of their actions during the China War of 1840—2; the 'Royal' title was granted for work at the Battle of Tofrek, in the Sudan, in 1884-5. Other distinguished service was as marines during the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801; officers wear a coil of rope in addition to the dragon as a mark of distinction, an allusion to this distinguished service.

1st Battalion was back in Britain at the outbreak of the First World War (1914-18), deploying straight to the Western Front. It was joined by 2nd Battalion in November 1914, with both battalions remaining there throughout the conflict.

The regiment also raised three Territorial, five New Army and four labour battalions during the war. These served in Italy and Salonika as well as at home and on the Western Front.

EB 65. Norfolk Regiment



The figure of Britannia within a wreath was awarded to the Regiment by Queen Anne following the Battle of Almanza in 1707. It is a unique distinction.

1st Battalion returned home from India in 1907. It deployed to the Western Front on the outbreak of the First World War (1914-18), remaining there throughout the conflict.

Meanwhile, 2nd Battalion was back in India when the First World War started. In November 1914, it was sent to Mesopotamia, but suffered such heavy casualties that it had to merge with 2nd Battalion, The Dorsetshire Regiment in February 1916, forming 'the English Battalion'. Two months later, this new battalion, nicknamed 'the Norsets', was captured at Kut al Amara.

In July 1916, reinforcements enabled 2nd Battalion, The Norfolk Regiment to re-form. It stayed in Mesopotamia for the rest of the war.

The regiment also raised 11 Territorial battalions and four New Army battalions during the conflict. Two of these landed at Gallipoli in 1915. One of them, 1/5th Battalion, included the Sandringham Company, raised on the royal estate. Other battalions from the regiment served in Palestine and on the Western Front.

EB 47. East Surrey Regiment



The device at the heart of this badge is derived mostly from the arms of Guildford, Surrey's county town (star, castle and lion), but is reputed to have three tiny salmon (on the central turret), from the arms of Kingston-upon-Thames.

During the First World War (1914-18), 1st Battalion served on the Western Front. It fought in the battles of Mons (1914), the Aisne (1914), the Somme (1916), Arras (1917) and Third Ypres (1917), before moving to Italy for four months in 1917. It then returned to the Western Front and took part in the Allied advances of 1918.

2nd Battalion served in India until 1915, when it deployed to France. It took part in the Battle of Loos (1915), before moving to Salonika for the remainder of the conflict.

The regiment also raised 17 Reserve, Territorial and New Army battalions. These served at home stations, on the Western Front, in Egypt, Mesopotamia and India. Captain RC Sherriff, a winner of the Military Cross, based his 1928 play 'Journey's End' on his experiences of the Western Front with the 9th Battalion.

The regiment won 62 battle honours and seven Victoria Crosses during the conflict. After the war, the two regular battalions undertook garrison duties in Britain, Ireland, Palestine, Gibraltar, Egypt, Shanghai, Hong Kong, India and Sudan.

EB 31. Middlesex Regiment



The cypher of George, Duke of Cambridge, is interlaced and reversed at the centre of this badge, below his ducal coronet and the Prince of Wales's plumes. The battle honour 'Albuhera', fought in May 1811 , earned the regiment the nickname 'the Diehards'.

The regiment's four regular battalions all served on the Western Front. The 3rd Battalion also deployed to Salonika in 1915. The regiment also raised 16 Territorial, 18 New Army and four works battalions during the conflict, serving in most of the war's major theatres.

EB 16. Army Cyclist Corps



Raised in 1914, taking over divisional Cyclist companies, the Corps's badge was the cycle wheel (in twelve- and sixteen-spoke versions) and crossed rifles.

On the outbreak of the First World War, the cyclist battalions were employed on Coastal Defences in the United Kingdom. Their role was considered to be so important that, initially, none of them were sent overseas. In 1915, the Army Cyclist Corps was founded to encompass these battalions; it later extended to cover a dozen more battalions raised from second-line yeomanry regiments which had been converted to cyclists.

Most units of the Corps served out their time in the United Kingdom, providing replacement drafts to infantry battalions; some were converted back to conventional infantry and saw active service, such as the Kent Cyclists (on the North-West Frontier) or the 2/10th Royal Scots (in northern Russia). Cyclists, as well as cavalry, of the British Salonika Army

were used to patrol villages in the Struma Valley, in order to deny them to the Bulgarians and Turks.

Formed units of the Corps were not sent overseas; this was done in small groups of men, with the divisions possessing individual cyclist companies and composite battalions later formed at corps level. These were rarely committed to action, rather being held back in preparation for the resumption of "normal" mobile warfare. Cyclists were employed in combat, but in conditions of trench warfare they were generally found to be ineffective. In 1918, however, with the deadlock of the trenches overcome, cyclists once more proved invaluable for reconnaissance.

EB 1A. The Black Watch



A badge with St Andrew at its centre. The motto is “Nemo me impune lacessit” (No one may touch me with impunity). The name “Black Watch’ may hark back to the beginnings of the regiment; raised in 1739 to suppress rebellious Highlanders, it was distinguished from the ‘red soldiers’ by its sombre ‘Government’ tartan.

During the First World War (1914-18) the regiment raised 25 battalions for service in France and Flanders, Palestine and Mesopotamia. By the time of the Armistice in November 1918 over 8,000 members of the regiment had lost their lives.

EB 8. The Devonshire Regiment



The Devonshire Regiment insignia consisted of a representation of Exeter Castle over the motto *Semper fidelis* ("Always faithful"), in commemoration of the defence of the city, by armed forebears, during the English Civil War.

In August 1914, 1st Battalion deployed straight to the Western Front. It was joined there three months later by 2nd Battalion. Both were to remain there throughout the conflict, except for 1st Battalion's five months in Italy from November 1917.

The regiment also raised 26 New Army, Territorial, Labour and Home Service battalions during the war. These served in Macedonia, Palestine, Mesopotamia and Egypt as well as on the Western Front.

2nd Battalion spent the post-war years in India and Aden, returning to England in 1927. 1st Battalion was stationed in Ireland for three years from 1919, but began a 15-year spell in China and India in 1927.

EB 101. The Northamptonshire Regiment



This badge bore the castle and key of Gibraltar (relating to the siege in 1779-83) and also wore the battle honour 'Talavera', when against all odds the regiment protected the high ground during this Peninsular War battle in July 1809.

Both regular battalions remained on the Western Front throughout the First World War (1914-18), arriving in August and November 1914 respectively.

The regiment raised 11 Territorial, Garrison and New Army battalions during the conflict, one of which - the 1/4th - served in Gallipoli (1915). The 1st Garrison Battalion also served in Salonika (1916).

2nd Battalion began a seven-year posting in India in 1919. 1st Battalion spent three years in Ireland, before short spells in England, Shanghai, Malta, Palestine and Egypt.

EB 80. The Herefordshire Regiment



Raised as the Rifle Volunteers in 1860, from 1908 the Regiment took wore the badge comprising a lion holding a short sword in its raised paw, based on the arms of the City of Hereford, granted to the City by King Richard I (the Lionheart), over the title "Herefordshire".

In the First World War the regiment was expanded to three battalions. The 1st Battalion landed at Suvla Bay in Gallipoli in August 1915, and then having been evacuated in December 1915, transferred to Egypt. The battalion was redeployed to the Western Front in June 1918

EB 7. The Lancashire Fusiliers



A badge comprising of a title scroll beneath the traditional brass grenade of Fusilier regiments. The grenade bears a superimposed sphinx.

During the First World War (1914-18), The Lancashire Fusiliers raised 30 Regular, Reserve, Territorial, Garrison and New Army battalions, with its men serving on all the major fronts. The author JRR Tolkien served with the 13th Battalion on the Western Front in 1915-16.

During the Gallipoli landings of April 1915, 1st Battalion's heroic performance at Cape Helles famously resulted in the awarding of 'six Victoria Crosses before breakfast'.

EB 11. East Kent (The Buffs) Regiment



The regiment is so named because of their buff facing colours, worn with full dress. The Buffs' dragon, confirmed in 1751, may have been sourced from the arms of Elizabeth I and is thought to have been awarded to the regiment by Queen Anne in 1707.

On the outbreak of the First World War (1914-18), 1st Battalion was in Britain and deployed straight to the Western Front. It stayed there throughout the conflict.

Initially serving in India, 2nd Battalion joined 1st Battalion in France in 1915, before moving to Salonika for the rest of the war.

The regiment also raised 12 Reserve, Territorial and New Army battalions during the conflict, serving in all the main theatres of war.

EB 54. The Rifle Brigade



The Rifle Brigade was raised as a Corps of Riflemen armed with the Baker rifle in 1800. Numbered 95th Foot in 1802, it saw distinguished service at Waterloo. In 1816 its number was abandoned and it became simply 'The Rifle Brigade'. This rifle regiment carried no colours: its battle honours are represented on the arms of the Maltese cross, and on fourteen honour scrolls on the laurel wreaths. More were added later for service in the First World War.

All four of the regiment's regular battalions were on the Western Front by December 1914. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions remained there until the end of the war in 1918, but 4th Battalion switched to the Macedonian front in November 1915.

The regiment also raised seven Territorial and 11 New Army battalions during the conflict. These served in France and Flanders, India, Egypt and at home.

EB 34. Australian Imperial Force



The First Australian Imperial Force was the main expeditionary force of the Australian Army during the First World War. It was formed as the Australian Imperial Force following Britain's declaration of war on Germany on 15 August 1914, with an initial strength of one infantry division and one light horse brigade

Australian soldiers wore Rising Sun badges on the up-turned side of their slouch hats and on the collars of their tunics.



Cardiff
Bereavement
Services



Gwasanaethau
Profedigaeth
Caerdydd



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