



## **Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry**



First DCLI Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, The Bluff in Belgium

The **Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry** (DCLI) was a light infantry regiment of the British Army in existence from 1881 to 1959.

The regiment was created on 1 July 1881 as part of the Childers Reforms, by the merger of the 32nd (Cornwall Light Infantry) Regiment of Foot and the 46th (South Devonshire) Regiment of Foot. The DCLI also incorporated the militia and rifle volunteers of Cornwall.

### **History**

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### **1899–1914**

In October 1899 war broke out between the United Kingdom and the Boer Republics. The 2nd Battalion arrived in South Africa in the following month, where it took part in minor actions on the western border of the Cape Colony. In February 1900 it became part of the 19th Brigade. It saw action against the Boers at Paardeberg, and in March 1900 entered Bloemfontein. It continued to

take part in a series of skirmishes until the end of the war. The 1st Battalion took no part on the war, moving from India to Ceylon in December 1900 where its soldiers guarded South African prisoners of war.

## **First World War**

The war saw a large expansion of the regiment. This was done in two ways: by the formation of duplicate units to the existing territorial battalions, and by the raising of wartime "new army" or "service" battalions. The following battalions of the DCLI saw active service in the conflict:

<b>Battalion</b>	<b>Service</b>
1st Battalion	Western Front 1914–1917; Italian Front 1917–1918; Western Front 1918
2nd Battalion	Western Front 1914–1915; Macedonian Front 1915–1918
1/4th Battalion	India 1914–1916; Aden 1916–1917; Egypt 1917–1918
2/4th Battalion	(Formed September 1914) India 1914–1918
1/5th Battalion	Remained in UK until 1916. Western Front 1916–1918
6th (Service) Battalion	(Formed August 1914) Western Front 1915–1918 (disbanded February 1918)
7th (Service) Battalion	(Formed September 1914) Western Front 1915–1918
8th (Service) Battalion	(Formed September 1914) Western Front 1915; Mesopotamian Front 1915–1918
10th (Service) Battalion (Cornwall Pioneers)	(Formed March 1915) Western Front 1916–1918

On the 6 October 1959, the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry merged with the Somerset Light Infantry to form the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry.