



Lancashire Fusiliers

The **Lancashire Fusiliers** was a line infantry regiment of the British Army that saw distinguished service through many centuries and wars, including the Second Boer War both World War I and World War II, and had many different titles throughout its 280 years of existence.

Lancashire Fusiliers (1881–1968)

The regiment became the **Lancashire Fusiliers** in 1881. Under the Haldane Reforms of 1908, the Militia were redesignated Special Reserve.

First World War

The Lancashire Fusiliers expanded to over thirty battalions for service in the Great War and would serve with distinction. Eighteen members of the regiment were awarded the Victoria Cross. The regiment was represented in every campaign of the war.

Gallipoli

At the initial landings of the Gallipoli Campaign at Cape Helles on 25 April 1915, six Victoria Crosses were awarded to 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers – 'the six VCs before breakfast'. The landing spot was later known as 'Lancashire Landing'.

A service of commemoration has been held in the regimental town, Bury, every Gallipoli Sunday, the nearest Sunday to 25 April, since 1916. It has recently been decided that this commemoration will continue despite the death of the last survivor of the Lancashire Fusiliers who was present at Gallipoli.

Western Front



Tolkien in 1916, wearing his British Army uniform in a photograph from Carpenter's *Biography*.

The regiment, like most British regiments in the war, sent the majority of its battalions to the Western Front, in France and Belgium. During the Battle of the Somme in 1916 there were eleven battalions of the regiment that saw action in the campaign including three Pals battalions (including the Accrington Pals) and three Bantam battalions.

The famous fantasy author J. R. R. Tolkien served in this regiment, training with the 13th (Reserve) Battalion from 1915 and was later sent to the 11th (Service) Battalion, part of the 74th Brigade of the 25th Division, from 1916 until contracting trench fever during the Battle of the Somme in October 1916.