



## **Royal Northumberland Fusiliers**

The **Royal Northumberland Fusiliers** was an infantry regiment of the British Army. Originally raised in 1674 as the **5th Regiment of Foot**, it was given the regional designation 'Northumberland' in 1782 and granted the distinction of being a Fusilier regiment in 1836, becoming **5th (Northumberland Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot**. The regiment adopted the title **Northumberland Fusiliers** when regimental numbers were abolished under the Childers Reforms of 1881 and became the **Royal Northumberland Fusiliers** on 3 June 1935.

In 1968, the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers were amalgamated with the other regiments in the Fusilier Brigade, the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers and the Lancashire Fusiliers to form the present Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

### **First World War**

During the First World War, the Northumberland Fusiliers expanded to 52 battalions and 29 of them served overseas. It was the second largest infantry regiment of the British Army during the war, surpassed only by the 88 battalions of the London Regiment.

They earned 67 battle honours and won five Victoria Crosses, but at the cost of over 16,000 dead. The battalions mostly saw action on the Western Front, but also in Macedonia, Gallipoli, Egypt and Italy.

### **Badges and dress distinctions**

The 5th Regiment of Foot was one of the 'Six Old Corps' entitled to use their 'ancient badge' (St George killing the Dragon) on Regimental Colours, drums and other devices rather than the typical GR cipher as used by normal Regiments of the Line, a distinction first officially recorded in 1747.<sup>1</sup>

The regiment wore a distinctively-coloured hackle or plume on the fusilier cap and later on the beret. The hackle was red over white, and was authorised in June 1829.

### **Amalgamation**

The regiment was amalgamated into the new Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.