



## **Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)**

**The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)** was an infantry regiment of the line in the British Army, formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 100th (Prince of Wales's Royal Canadian) Regiment of Foot and the 109th Regiment of Foot (Bombay Infantry). The 100th Foot was first raised in 1763 and the 109th was first raised in 1761.

### **First World War**

At the declaration of war in 1914 two additional Service Battalions were formed, the 6th Battalion and the 7th Battalion. The Regiment raised seven battalions for service with the British Army during World War I which saw action on the Western Front and in the Middle East.

### **Disbandment**

Following establishment of the independent Irish Free State in 1922, The Leinsters and the other five regiments that had their traditional recruiting grounds in the counties of the new state were disbanded. The Regimental Colours of these Irish regiments were laid up, in safety and in perpetuity, in Windsor Castle.

In recognition of their Canadian roots, the officers of the 1st Battalion decided to give their officers' mess silver 'in trust' to the Government of Canada- which in turn passed in on 'in trust' to the Commandant of the Royal Military College of Canada. On disbandment the Regiment's collection of silver was presented to the Government of Canada, “as a token of the regard for the Great Dominion which gave birth to the Battalion to be held in trust until such time as the Battalion is again raised”. The silver, known as “The Leinster Plate”, was deposited for safe keeping at the Royal Military College of Canada in 1923 at the suggestion of then Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Edward Mortimer Macdonald, and of Maj-Gen. J.H. McBrien, the Canadian Chief of Staff. The silver is on display at Royal Military College of Canada in the Senior Staff Mess and Museum (Fort Frederic). The Prince of Wales’s Leinster Regiment

(Royal Canadians) plaque is on display in the Senior Staff Mess, Royal Military College of Canada.

The silver of the 2nd Battalion is held by a museum in London.