

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN REGIMENT OF YORKSHIRE

In April 1958, two fine old Regiments, both formed in 1685, amalgamated to form The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. They were The West Yorkshire and The East Yorkshire Regiments; and a brief history of each is given below.

The 1st Battalion of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire went to Aden in August 1958, where it quickly made a name for itself in the military and sporting spheres. Shortly after its arrival it was called upon to suppress racial riots which showed signs of getting out of hand. This it did in the surprisingly short time of two days. In April 1959 the Battalion moved to Gibraltar, a very pleasant place, and it is still stationed there.

THE WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT (THE PRINCE OF WALES'S OWN)

The Regiment was raised on the 22nd June, 1685, in Kent, by Sir Edward Hales. Following arduous service on the Border, it had its first experience of active service in Flanders in 1693, where it served under King William III and took part in the siege and capture of Namur. In 1694 it became the 14th Foot.

Subsequently the Regiment served in Ireland throughout the period of Queen Anne's wars. During the rebellion in Scotland it took an active part in the campaign which ended with the decisive defeat of the Jacobites at Sheriffmuir and Glenshiel.

In 1727 the Regiment was sent to Gibraltar and remained on the Rock for fifteen years, during which time it earned great credit in the defence of the fortress and also saw some service on the coast of Italy.

Another spell of service in Flanders followed, but the later rebellion in Scotland in 1745 caused the Regiment's recall, and it was engaged there until Culloden put an end to the claims of the Scottish clans.

In 1759 it gained, as a mark of Royal favour by King George III, permission to wear the White Horse of Hanover on the caps of the grenadiers and drummers.

In 1766 the Regiment went to America, and with a short period in the West Indies continued to serve in America until 1778, when it returned home from New York. Thereafter it took part in the campaigns in Jamaica in 1793-94. Subsequently it was one of the first British regiments sent to Flanders, and took a notable part in the Battle of Famars, 23rd May, 1793, where it adopted its famous marching air of "Ca Ira", a French Revolutionary air. The French had checked the advance of the Allied force, when the Colonel of the Regiment ordered his drummers to strike up the "Ca Ira", which the French were then playing, and called out, "Come on lads; we'll break them to their own d---- tune!". The effect was irresistible, and the French found themselves flying from the sound of their own war hymn.

In 1803 the Regiment returned home to recruit, and a 2nd Battalion was raised. The 1st Battalion took part in the Hanover expedition of 1805 and, two years later, was to be found attacking the Danish settlements of Tranquebar in India. Meanwhile, the 2nd Battalion went to the Peninsula and took part in Sir John Moore's famous retreat to, and glorious victory at, Corunna.

The 1st Battalion, after serving in the unfortunate Walcheren Expedition, took part in the capture of Mauritius in 1810 and in Java in 1811. In the meantime a 3rd Battalion had been raised, mainly composed of boys, and was despatched in 1815 to Antwerp for garrison duty. Despite the age of most of the soldiers of this battalion it was permitted, at its urgent request, to form part of Wellington's Army and bore itself splendidly at Waterloo, exhibiting great valour under a pitiless artillery fire.

In the meantime the 1st Battalion was winning further laurels in India. The Battalion returned home in 1831 and, in recognition of its distinguished services in India, was granted the badge of the Royal Tiger superscribed "India". Further service in the West Indies, Canada and Malta followed, after which the Regiment joined the British army in the Crimea in 1855, and took part in the siege and capture of Sevastopol.

In 1858 the 2nd Battalion was raised again and sent to New Zealand, where it took part in the Maori Wars of 1860-61 and 1863-66. It returned from Australia in 1870.

In 1876 the Prince of Wales conferred on the Regiment the honoured title of "The Prince of Wales's Own". The 2nd Battalion, after relieving the 1st Battalion in India in 1878, achieved further glory in the Afghan Wars of 1879-80, and in 1895 both battalions met for the first time in the history of the Regiment, at Gibraltar.

In 1881 the 14th Regiment was given the county title of The West Yorkshire Regiment.

In October, 1899, war broke out with the South African Republics and the 2nd Battalion proceeded to the Cape. From Cape Town it went on to Durban and took part in all the severe fighting in Natal which resulted in the Relief of Ladysmith and afterwards in the invasion of the Transvaal.

The year 1908 saw the 1st Battalion again on active service in the Mohmand Expedition.

The Regiment was fully committed in the Great War of 1914-18, and again in the last one of 1939-45. Both the 1st and 2nd Battalions fought alongside each other at the Battle of Imphal in June 1944, and Imphal subsequently became the Regiment's principal Battle Honour.

THE EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT
(THE DUKE OF YORK'S OWN)

In February 1685, King James II ascended to the throne and only a few months had elapsed before James Duke of Monmouth appeared as a competitor to the throne, and raised an Army in the West of England. The King immediately augmented his forces, and among the Corps raised was the Regiment which was subsequently to be known as the Fifteenth Foot, and later still, as The East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of York's Own). Sir William Clifton was appointed the first Colonel.

Not long after this the Duke of Monmouth was defeated at Sedgemoor, and beheaded. The King however, decided to retain the Regiment as part of his Regular Forces.

It was soon on active service again, this time in Scotland, engaged in putting down the rebellion against King William III who had taken the throne from James.

By this time war had broken out with France, and in 1694 the Regiment embarked for the Continent, where they remained for a considerable time, taking part in many famous campaigns under the great Duke of Marlborough. The Regiment proudly bears the battle honours "Blenheim", "Ramillies", "Oudenarde" and "Malplaquet" which are among the most famous in history.

The Regiment had not long returned to England when they were off again to the West Indies where they remained until 1742, when they were compelled to return to England once more to make up their numbers, nine out of every ten men who had left England having perished through battle casualty or disease.

Later the Regiment took part in the conquest of Canada and played a prominent part in the attack on Quebec on September 1759. After this battle, September 13th has always been known as Quebec Day in the Regiment, and is observed as a holiday. In addition, black janyards were worn by the Officers as a mark of mourning for the Commander, General Wolfe, who was killed in the engagement, until amalgamation in April 1958.

It was during the War of American Independence that the Regiment acquired their nickname of "The Snappers". At the Battle of Brandywine (11th September 1777), the Fifteenth Foot ran short of ball ammunition. What there was left was handed to the best shots, who ran from tree to tree, while the remainder continued "snapping", that is firing small charges of powder only. So accurate was the shooting that the enemy was completely misled, and the day was won.

During the Napoleonic Wars, the Regiment was again sent to the West Indies, and was involved in some severe fighting with the French possessions there, Martinique and Guadeloupe being possibly the most famous. On their return, the Regiment had a short spell in England and was then sent to India.

In 1881 the Infantry of the line ceased to be known by their numbers, and took on territorial titles instead. The Regiment then became known for the first time as the East Yorkshire Regiment.

The Regiment was fully committed in the Great War of 1914-1918, and again in the last one of 1939-1945. A fact of which the Regiment is extremely proud is that alone amongst the 69 Infantry Regiments of the British Army, The East Yorkshire Regiment was the only one to have two Battalions in the first assault waves on the Normandy Beach on 'D' Day 1944.

It was on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Regiment, in 1935, that the additional title "The Duke of York's Own" was conferred upon The East Yorkshire Regiment by the command of King George V.



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HAND

Duke of Wellington's
Regiment from
Aalfoz. STRENSALL. 62

When compiling the script for
this film, it would be very
much appreciated if the title
of the Regiment could be mentioned
as often as possible.

24 Mar 59.

~~For a~~ Capt.

Ford (Capt)

Mag-Six Sterling Automatic
(Target)

Unissued F.N.? (7.62mm?)
(Six Pdr Rifle)