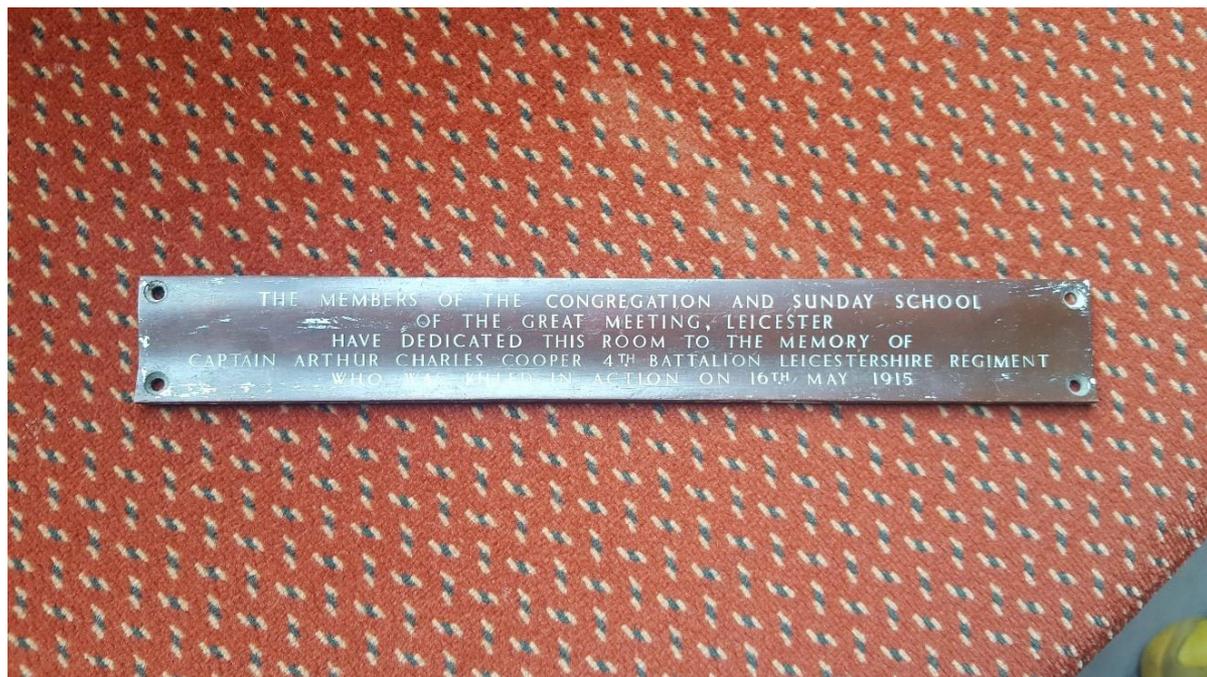




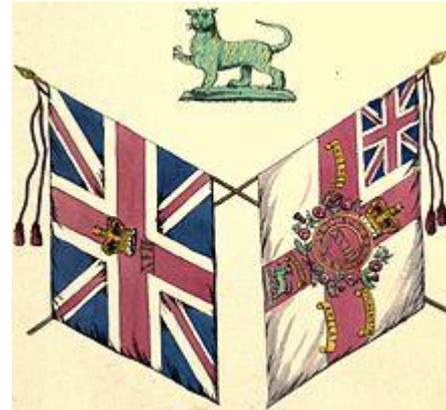
**4th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment,
1st/4th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment.
Territorial Force Battalions.**



History



Soldier of 17th regiment, 1742



Colours of the regiment





Regimental uniform, 1840s



On 27 September 1688 a commission was issued to Colonel Solomon Richards to raise a regiment of foot in the London area. In its early years, like other regiments, the regiment was known by the name of its various colonels. Following a failed attempt to break the Siege of Derry in 1689, Richards was dismissed and replaced by the Irishman George St George. The regiment embarked for Flanders in 1693 for service in the Nine Years' War and took part in the attack of Fort Knokke in June 1695 and the Siege of Namur in summer 1695 before returning home in 1697.

In 1701 the regiment moved to Holland for service in the War of the Spanish Succession and fought at the siege of Kaisersworth in 1702, the siege of Venlo later that year and the capture of Huy in 1703. It transferred to Portugal in 1704 and took part in the sieges of Valencia de Alcantara, Alburquerque and Badajoz in 1705 as well as the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo in 1706. It also saw action at the Battle of Almansa in April 1707 before returning to England in 1709. It went to Scotland to suppress the Jacobite rising of 1715 and fought at the Battle of Sheriffmuir in November 1715.

In 1726 the regiment moved to Menorca and in 1751 a royal warrant assigned numbers to the regiments of the line, and the unit became the 17th Regiment of Foot. The regiment embarked for Nova Scotia in 1757 for service in the French and Indian War; it fought at the Siege of Louisbourg in June 1758, at the Battle of Ticonderoga in July 1759, and at engagements in the West Indies in 1762. Following that war it also saw duty during Pontiac's Rebellion before eventually returning to England in 1767.



The regiment embarked for Boston, landing there on New Years day 1776, for service during the American War of Independence. It saw action at the Battle of Long Island in August 1776, the Battle of White Plains in October 1776 and the Battle of Fort Washington in November 1776. The regiment also took part in the Battle of Trenton and the battle of Prince Town in January 1777; its performance at the latter battle was commemorated in the addition of an unbroken laurel wreath to its insignia; it went on to fight at the battle of Brandywine in September 1777 and at the Battle of Germantown in October 1777. Several companies were captured at the Battle of Stony Point in July 1779 by a daring night-time bayonet charge by "Mad" Anthony Wayne. The regiment was in action again at the Battle of Guilford Court House in March 1781 and at the Siege of York Town in September 1781. A royal warrant dated 31 August 1782 bestowed county titles on all regiments of foot that did not already have a special designation "to cultivate a connection with the County which might at all times be useful towards recruiting". The regiment became the 17th (Leicestershire) Regiment of Foot. The regiment moved to Nova Scotia in 1783 before returning to England in 1786.

The regiment was increased to two battalions in 1799 and both battalions took part in the Anglo-Russian invasion of Holland, being present at the Battle of Bergen in September 1799 and the Battle of Alkmaar in October 1799, before the second was disbanded in 1802. In 1804 the regiment moved to India, and remained there until 1823. In 1825 the regiment was granted the badge of a "royal tiger" to recall their long service in the sub-continent. The Regiment was posted to New South Wales from 1830 to 1836.



The Victorian era

The regiment returned to India in 1837, and then took part in the Battle of Ghazni in July 1839 and the Battle of Kelat in November 1839 during the First Anglo-Afghan War. The regiment next came under fire at the Siege of Sevastopol in winter 1854 during the Crimean War. In 1858 a second battalion was raised.



Officers of the regiment at Crimea in 1855,
photographed by Roger Fenton



An invasion scare in 1859 led to the emergence of the volunteer movement, and within a year there were 10 Rifle Volunteer Corps in Leicestershire, with titles like the 'Leicester Town Rifles' and the 'Duke of Rutland's Belvoir Rifles'. Together these formed an administrative battalion, which became the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment in 1880. By 1900, when the unit provided a detachment of volunteers to serve alongside the Regulars during the Second Boer War, it operated as a double-battalion unit

Childers Reforms

The regiment was not fundamentally affected by the Cardwell Reforms of the 1870s, which gave it a depot at Glen Parva Barracks from 1873, or by the Childers reforms of 1881 – as it already possessed two battalions, there was no need for it to amalgamate with another regiment. Under the reforms the regiment became **The Leicestershire Regiment** on 1 July 1881.

The regiment also incorporated the local militia and rifle volunteers and consisted of:

The 1st and 2nd Battalions (formerly the 1st and 2nd battalions of the 17th Foot)

3rd (Militia) Battalion (formerly the Leicestershire Militia) 1st Leicestershire Rifle Volunteer Corps, re-designated as the 1st Volunteer Battalion in 1883.

The 1st and 3rd battalions fought in the Second Boer War 1899 – 1902, and the 1st Volunteer Battalion provided a detachment of volunteers to serve alongside the Regulars. The 2nd Battalion was stationed as a garrison regiment in Ireland from 1896, and in Egypt from February 1900.

In 1908, the Volunteers and Militia were reorganised nationally, with the former becoming the Territorial Force and the latter the Special Reserve. The 1st Volunteer Battalion was split to form the 4th and 5th Battalions (TF). There was a minor controversy in the same year, when new colours were issued to the 1st Battalion to replace those of the 17th foot. A green tiger had been shown on the old colours and the regiment refused to take the new issue into use. The issue was resolved when the regiment received permission for the royal tiger emblazoned on the regimental colours to be coloured green with gold stripes. The regiment now had one Reserve and two Territorial battalions.



The First World War

In the First World War, the regiment increased from five to nineteen battalions which served in France and Flanders, Mesopotamia and Palestine.

Regular Army

The 1st Battalion landed at Saint-Nazaire as part of the 16th Infantry Brigade in the 6th Division in September 1914 for service on the Western Front. The Battalion saw action at the Battle of Hooge in July 1915 capturing a number of enemy trenches. It then suffered terrible losses at the Battle of the Somme in July 1916.



Men of the 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment rushing a position, Bout de Ville, France, 6 September 1915.



The 2nd Battalion landed at Marseille as part of the Garhwal Brigade in the 7th (Meerut) Division in September 1914 also for service on the Western Front. The Battalion saw action at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915 when Private William Buckingham was awarded the Victoria Cross. It then moved to Basra in Mesopotamia in December 1915 and took part in the action of Shaikh Saad in January 1916, the siege of Kut in Spring 1916, the capture of Sannaiyat in February 1917 and the fall of Baghdad in March 1917. The battalion moved to Suez in January 1918 for service in the Palestine Campaign.

Territorial Force

The 1/4th Battalion and 1/5th Battalion landed at Le Havre as part of the Lincoln and Leicester Brigade in the North Midland Division in March 1915 and February 1915 respectively for service on the Western Front. The battalions saw action at the action of the Hohenzollern Reoubt in October 1915. Lieutenant John Barrett was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions while serving with the 1/5th Battalion at Pontruet in September 1918 in the closing stages of the war.

The 2/4th Battalion and 2/5th Battalion landed in France as part of the 2nd Lincoln and Leicester Brigade in the 2nd North Midland Division in February 1917 also for service on the Western Front.

New Army Battalions

The 6th (Service) Battalion, 7th (Service) Battalion, 8th (Service) Battalion and 9th (Service) Battalion landed in France as part of the 110th Brigade in the 37th Division in July 1915 for service on the Western Front. The battalions took part in the attacks on High Wood at the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. Lieutenant Colonel Philip Bent was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions while in command of the 9th (Service) Battalion at the Battle of Polygon Wood in September 1917.

The 11th (Service) Battalion (Midland Pioneers) landed in France as the pioneer battalion for the 6th Division in March 1916 also for service on the Western Front. Meanwhile, the 14th (Service) Battalion landed in France as part of the 47th Brigade in the 16th Division in July 1918 also for service on the Western Front.





The War Memorial in Victoria Park, Leicester: designed by Edwin Lutyens and erected in 1923, the Memorial commemorates the members of the Leicestershire Regiment killed in both World Wars

The regiment reverted to its pre-war establishment in 1919. The 1st Battalion was involved in the Irish War of Independence from 1920 to 1922, before moving to various overseas garrisons including Cyprus, Egypt and India. The 2nd Battalion was in India, Sudan, Germany and Palestine. In 1931 the regimental facing colour was changed from white to pearl grey. Previous to 1881 the 17th foot had "greyish white" facings.

The 3rd (Militia) Battalion was placed in "suspended animation" in 1921, eventually being formally disbanded in 1953. In 1936 the 4th Battalion was converted into a searchlight as 44th (The Leicestershire Regiment) Anti-Aircraft Battalion of the Royal Engineers. The size of the Territorial Army was doubled in 1939, and consequently the 1/5th and 2/5th Battalions were formed from the existing 5th.





**Captain ARTHUR CHARLES COOPER 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 16th May 1915. Age 39.
Son of Edgar Franklin Cooper and Mary Jane Cooper. Native of Leicester. KIA Belgium.
PACKHORSE SHRINE CEMETERY.**



THE REGISTERS OF THE GRAVES

PACKHORSE FARM SHRINE CEMETERY, WULVERGHEM

INDEX No. B. 99
PACKHORSE
FARM SHRINE
CEM.
WULVERGHEM

ADAMS, Pte. S. H., 1559. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 20th May, 1915. A. 4.
ANDERSON, Pte. R., 2407. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 9th April, 1915. B. 1.
BAKER, Lce. Cpl. T. G., 2533. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 29th April, 1915. E. 5.
BALDING, Pte. J. T., 2656. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 20th May, 1915. Age 27. Son of T. and Mary Ann Balding, of Searby-cum-Owmy, Grasby, Lincoln. A. 6.
BALL, Pte. G., 3163. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 14th June, 1915. C. 8.
BARKER, Pte. William Martin, 1331. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 11th April, 1915. Age 20. Son of Horace and Annie Barker, of 50, Stanley St., Gainsborough, Lincs. B. 3.
BASFORD, Serjt. J. W., 314. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 20th May, 1915. A. 1.
BLENKINSOPP, Pte. J., 19458. 10th Bn. Durham Light Inf. 17th June, 1915. F. 8.
BLOUNT, Pte. Sydney, 3334. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 30th April, 1915. Age 19. Son of William Joseph and Sarah Ann Blount, of 4, Biddulph St., Leicester. E. 6.
BONSER, Pte. E., 2851. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 15th April, 1915. D. 1.
BOTTERILL, Pte. A., 2141. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 20th May, 1915. A. 2.
BRAMLEY, Pte. William, 3217. "F" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. Killed in action 21st April, 1915. Age 38. Son of John Simpson Bramley and Caroline Bramley. E. 4.
BROWN, Lce. Cpl. G., 1104. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 14th June, 1915. C. 9.
BRUMBY, Pte. J., 2260. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 3rd June, 1915. C. 7.
BUSHELL, Pte. Leonard, 2148. "B" Coy. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. Killed in action 30th May, 1915. Age 20. Son of Florence Scholey (formerly Bushell), of Partney, Spilsby, Lincs, and the late Thomas Bushell. C. 6.

CARTER, Pte. W. E., 1653. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 20th May, 1915. Age 22. Son of John and Harriet Carter, of 8, Dickenson Terrace, Gainsborough, Lincs. C. 2.
CLARK, Pte. J., 2741. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 26th April, 1915. Age 20. Son of Walker and Sabina Clark, of East Ravendale, Grimsby. Native of Binbrook, Lincoln. B. 5.
CLARKE, Pte. A., 2563. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 7th April, 1915. E. 1.
CLARKE, 2nd Lt. A. C. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 10th May, 1915. F. 1.
COGGON, Pte. Albert, 2591. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 14th May, 1915. Age 22. Son of Francis William and Helen Coggon, of 365, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby, Lincs. B. 7.
COOPER, Capt. Arthur Charles. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 16th May, 1915. Age 39. Son of Edgar Franklin Cooper and Mary Jane Cooper. Native of Leicester. F. 4.
DRAPER, Serjt. A., 1188. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 20th May, 1915. A. 5.
FREARSON, Pte. Edward, 1524. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. 15th April, 1915. Age 19. Son of Daniel and Elizabeth Frearson, of 38, Willow Bridge St., Leicester. D. 2.
FREEMAN, Lce. Cpl. William Dakin, 2100. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. Killed in action 15th May, 1915. Age 18. Son of the Rev. John D. and Clara Freeman, of Stanley Avenue, Chesham, Bucks. Born at Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. F. 3.
FULLER, Pte. W., 2334. 1st/5th Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. 11th April, 1915. B. 4.
GREASLEY, Pte. Shirley, 3018. "C" Coy. 1st/4th Bn. Leicestershire Regt. Killed in action 10th May, 1915. Age 26. Son of Mrs. Noon, of 111, Bosworth St., Leicester. Enlisted 1914; went to France, February, 1915. E. 8.
GREEN, Pte. C. F., 2398. Royal Army Medical Corps, attd. (North Midland) Field Amb. Killed in action 14th May, 1915. B. 8.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

D.A.D.G.R. & E. SOUTH NO. 5 DISTRICT:
Serial No. 445.

REPORT No. 16.

SCHEDULE No. 3.C.

PLACE OF BURIAL ~~BRITISH~~ PACKHORSE FARM SHRINE CEMETERY.

D.A.D.G.R. & E.
SOUTH SUB-AREA,
No. 5 AREA.
No.....
Dets..... 20

Map Reference Sheet 28.N.33.b.75.40.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
		<u>S - N.</u>				<u>ROW & Grave No.</u>
1/4 Leicester R.	3018	GREASLEY	Pte.S.	10.5.15	All	E.8. ✓
do.	2453	LOVETT	Pte.G.W.	11.5.15		E.9. ✓
do.	2803	SMITH	Pte.J.	1.6.15		E.10. ✓
Durham.L.I.		LUMSDEN	Pte.G.	19.6.15		E.11. ✓
1/4 Leicester R.	✓	HAYLOCK	Captn.H.	10.5.15		E.12. ✓
1/4 Leicester R.	-	✓ CLARKE	2/Lt.A.C.	9.5.15	erected	F.1. ✓
do.	75	RATCLIFFE	Sgt.W.J.	15.5.15	5/2924	F.2. ✓
do.	2100	FREEMAN (Space)	L/Cpl.W.D.	"		F.3. ✓
do.	✓	COOPER	Captn.A.C.	16.5.15	or	F.4. ✓
7/Rifle Bde.	2	NORTH	Rfn.M.J.	31.5.15		F.5. ✓
1/4 Leicester R.	✓	WAITE	2/Lt.F.M.	7.6.15		F.6. ✓
do.	227	TILLEY	Pte.A.	16.6.15	(S.L./S./G/9432)	F.7. ✓
10/Durham L.I.	19458	ELENKINSOP	Pte.J.	18.6.15	G.R.Ud.	F.8. ✓

ENTERED 29.9.20
CLIPS CHECKED a.d. 29.10.20

16 SEP 1920



Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
COOPER	4 th Leic. R.	Capt. ix	
Arthur Charles			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY BRITISH	Off. 159	115	K in A. 16/5/1915 IVx5330d/ 6/2/22. 6/5/8431
15	Off. 159	6.	
Theatre of War first served in <i>France</i>			
Date of entry therein <i>3. 3. 15</i>			
			EF/5/8731
			K. 1380

H.T. Cooper applies for Lake Brothers Medal
 Correspondence 5/12/21

H.T. Cooper Esq. (Brother)

Address *12 Millstone Lane*
Leicester

H.T.

(991) W. 701/R. P. 6990 1,000m. 24/5/21 N.H.&Co.Ltd. E. 7600